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Third Session of the 30th Parliament

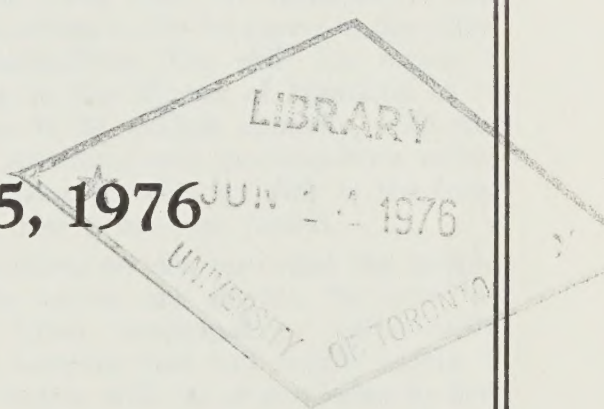
Tuesday, May 25, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, MAY 25, 1976

The House resumed at 8:15 p.m.

BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hamilton Mountain will continue his remarks.

Hon. J. R. Smith: Mr. Speaker, in conclusion to the remarks of last Friday, I would like to say a few words regarding regional government, particularly the regional municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth, and in particular to commend the work during the past year of the regional chairman, Mrs. Ann Jones. In retrospect, it was a very worthy and appropriate appointment of a woman with many talents and gifts. She was well grounded in the field of municipal affairs and finance, with a warm and understanding appreciation for people and the complexities and challenges of municipal government in the 1970s.

Undoubtedly, during the last provincial election a great deal was said in our area about duplication and the waste of money in regional government. I was very pleased to see that the regional municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth recently published a brochure, which was delivered to every household. It very clearly outlined the actual facts regarding duplication. The brochure says:

Perhaps the greatest misconception held by the residents in the region is related to duplication. Many feel that the systems implemented are duplicated and are costing them more money in property taxes.

Then it goes on to show how the regional government has, in fact, reduced a great deal of the previous duplication in the past two years. Before Jan. 1, 1974, there were 11 local councils and after Jan. 1, 1974, there were six local councils. The Wentworth county council was replaced by the regional council and, in turn, was strengthened by the re-inclusion of the city of Hamilton representatives back into the county council.

Two social services departments have combined into one social services department. I think one of the keys in our area is the fact that the five police forces have been joined into one strong Hamilton-Wentworth police

force. Water, sewers and waste disposal, administered by the various municipalities and public utility commissions, now form one department.

For capital financing, the county and the 11 area municipalities have combined into one regional finance department. There were two planning departments; there is now one, plus consultants. Similarly, regarding finances, following the introduction of a sewer surcharge, the regional levy on the property taxpayers was reduced in 1975 by 11 per cent. Allowing for the increase of 2.3 per cent in assessment throughout the region, the actual impact on the regional taxpayers on the average was a reduction of 13 per cent. Had the sewer surcharge been part of the property tax, the impact on the average taxpayer still would have been an increase of only 8.4 per cent, despite the fact that inflation was running at the rate of almost 12 per cent.

Since the inception of regional government there has been a substantial shift in the tax burden away from the taxpayers of the city of Hamilton to the taxpayers in the other area municipalities. The shift has meant a tax saving to the citizens of Hamilton of at least close to \$2 million annually, with the province providing area municipalities assistance in paying for this tax shift in the form of grants over a five-year period.

Mr. Speaker, we see now that the people within the region are sharing the costs of services. Other municipalities undoubtedly were not carrying their full weight before. I wish the region well. As it concludes its first term, many things have been ironed out. Where some hostilities originally were felt, we now see councillors working together in a more amicable way. The future lies with the head of the lakes in the region of Hamilton-Wentworth, one of the faster-growing areas in Ontario. It has much to offer but without planned development our area would soon become a hodgepodge of development on different scales in the various towns of Ancaster, Dundas and so on.

Related to all of this on another front is the creation of the new Hamilton-Wentworth Housing Authority, which I hope will do a

great deal to develop and diversify public housing and accommodation throughout the region. It is most encouraging to see municipalities such as Stoney Creek really carrying their weight in development under the various Ontario housing programmes. I hope the other municipalities such as Dundas and Ancaster, will similarly follow the lead that Stoney Creek and Hamilton have for providing housing lands for people.

Ms. Sandeman: I am pleased to be able to follow the Minister for Correctional Services because some of the things I want to say in connection with the budget have to do specifically with the budget of his ministry,

I was interested to see the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) announced in his budget for this year that the first element in his fiscal plan is control of spending. The Treasurer of this province has a marvellous facility for expressing the obvious in government planning. I had always taken it for granted that Treasurers were in charge of spending and that spending should be controlled and not out of control, although the debt and the deficits that this province finds itself in don't lend much credence to the control theory of spending.

I really wonder how it is in 1976 that the Treasurer plans to control spending on behalf of the taxpayers and the legislators of Ontario. One of the key elements in the Treasurer's plan this year appears to be by reducing the staff of the civil service. He tells us in the budget that a key element in Ontario's policy of expenditure control is a further reduction in the number of civil servants on the provincial payroll. "We are convinced," he says, "and the evidence of the past year confirms, that it does not require a growing bureaucracy to maintain and improve public services." Again, I suppose that is a statement of the obvious, but one needs to dig a little below the surface. When we look at how this present government is reducing staff, here are a couple of questions we have to ask. First of all, which staff are being eliminated? Secondly, is there really a reduction of staff or are we being fooled by a complicated numbers game?

First of all, in relation to the areas in which we find staff reductions, I think it's true across all the programmes of government that there is a tendency to reduce or not to allow increases in staff in very important front-line positions, in just the positions where civil servants are dealing with the public. One of the ramifications of the restraint programme that the Treasurer is

so proud of is that staff have been reduced not directly in civil service positions but in related positions. For instance we've seen the cutbacks in nursing staff in our hospitals and in health care personnel of all kinds. People have estimated that from 4,000 to 5,000 people are losing jobs because of the restraint programme.

It came to my notice just this last weekend that this has a spillover effect into private industry. For instance, Ethicon Sutures Ltd., a firm which makes surgical supplies, has laid off 13 staff. They say it's a direct result of a slowdown in orders from hospitals—and the ramifications go on and on.

The 4,000 or 5,000 staff who are losing their positions in the health fields are not necessarily classified civil servants, but, nevertheless, we are experiencing through their loss an expensive waste of manpower and if we feel we've been using these people in wrong ways, efforts surely must be made to redeploy them. It's costly in the long run and in the short run to lay off staff from these front-line care positions either in social services, or in health or in corrections or whatever it may be. The implications in social terms and in economic terms are very costly. But I think, in specific relationship to the budget, we should look at the figures of civil servants.

In many ministries, what we find is not a reduction in staff but a hidden increase. This is certainly true, for instance, in Correctional Services. The public are told many, many times that the complement staff of the government of Ontario is being reduced. But we are never, unless we ask for them, given figures for contract and casual employees who are employees of the government differing only in their classification status. They are bodies who work for the government. They are people who draw salaries and, if the figures were given honestly, they should be publicly acknowledged. But these figures have to be pried out of the various ministries.

The ministry with which I am most familiar, the Ministry of Correctional Services, has many staffing problems. They have a desperate need for more staff in adult institutions, and to give them their due, this need has been recognized. The ministry has increased the complement staff in the field this year by two per cent from 5,056 to 5,164; that's for classified staff. But even with that straightforward addition of two per cent to the staff in areas of real need, there's some clouding of the issues, some playing with numbers.

For instance, anybody who knows anything about community services in the Ministry of Correctional Services knows that one area that is clearly understaffed is probation officers for adult offenders. An announcement was made that there would be 20 new complement positions for adult probation officers, but a careful look at the estimates for the Ministry of Correctional Services shows that there is no more money allotted this year to pay adult probation officers. Questions elicit the response that: "Yes, there may be 20 new complement positions, but there are actually no new probation officers because these are people who were on contract last year and whose classification has been changed." That seems to me to be a less than straightforward way of announcing an increase in probation staff.

But after you have the numbers of classified staff, the picture becomes very unclear and confused. Neither the budget itself, the overall provincial budget, nor individual ministries' estimates gives a breakdown of numbers of unclassified staff.

In corrections, for instance, the increase in unclassified staff between March 1, 1975, and March 31, 1976, was about 26 per cent. The actual figures were from 1,142 employees to 1,441, so there were 26 per cent more contract staff. That is in no way a cut in staff, but it isn't the kind of thing that the Treasurer feels he has to announce. The total increase in staff for the Ministry of Correctional Services, if it were straightforwardly announced, would be about 6.5 per cent—if all the bodies on the payroll were counted, as I believe they should be.

[8:30]

I wonder why the government should be ashamed to admit that in some areas more staff are needed and that they are hiring people to meet the needs. There is no doubt in my mind that in very difficult tasks of looking after adults in jails and correctional institutions or in supervising people on probation, more staff are needed. The ministry obviously realizes that and is doing something to meet the need. It really escapes me why they should be so coy about meeting the needs of the people of Ontario. I guess the answer to that question is that at the moment the posture of restraint is felt to be more politically attractive than admitting that in many areas the civil service is, in fact, not shrinking but growing to meet our needs.

The ramifications of this kind of fudging of the figures—of increasing contract unclassified staff—are very unfortunate I think, both for the unclassified employees and the classi-

fied staff. The unclassified staff lack the protections of being members of a union, they lack the fringe benefits that are the right of the classified staff, in many cases they don't find themselves able to take full part in training courses and in most cases they lack the opportunity to become full members of the staff.

Classified staff find themselves very uneasy at being outnumbered very often by contract staff of various kinds. It was pointed out to me for instance that at the Burtch institution in March of this year there were enough casual employees covering the various shifts to absorb 10 more complement positions. If 10 more complement positions are needed in that institution, it would seem to me to make sense to ensure that the people doing that difficult and demanding job have the protection of being on the classified staff. But it doesn't suit the Treasurer to announce that there are more people being hired, so we are back to the position where you have contract staff, casual staff, part-time staff, trying to do difficult work—and in corrections often dangerous work—that would be better done by trained complement staff.

I am sure one could duplicate this kind of disguising of the actual figures of ministry employees from ministry to ministry—the kind of figures that we have in Corrections, where a two per cent increase is announced but the actual increase is nearer to seven per cent. This is probably not the only situation of its kind.

When one is looking at the deployment of staff in the Ministry of Correctional Services, or any ministry, in light of budget statements, it is perhaps even more instructive to consider the deployment of funds. Basically that is what a budget statement is all about.

The Treasurer has stated among his list of generalities that there can be no escaping a shift in priorities, a trimming of costs and a reduction in staff if spending is to be controlled.

When I look at the ministries that deal directly with the public—Social Services, Health, Correctional Services—I wonder why, at a time when high spending is suspect and priorities are to be reconsidered, we are still spending such huge sums on institutions of all kinds and specifically on keeping children in institutions.

I have read in the Instant Hansard the spirited defence by the Minister of Correctional Services of the training schools. There is no doubt in my mind that the programmes in the training schools are certainly improving but there is no doubt in my mind that the enormous expense at which we are giving

those programmes to children has to be questioned. I think it very likely that we could give equally good service—in many cases probably better—outside the institutional setting for all but a very tiny minority of the children now in training schools.

The training school count, interestingly enough, seems to be going up again. I suspect that is because, with the constraints on the Ministry of Community and Social Services and on Children's Aid budgets, alternatives once again are shrinking. I know in my own riding we had a dozen children, eight boys and four girls, sent to training schools between the months of January and April, which is a large number for a small town such as Peterborough.

It's very interesting to me to see how in a time of restraint when large spending estimates are suspect we get a ministry—again I return to the Ministry of Correctional Services—which, when you break down its budget seems to be escaping what the Treasurer promises us, which is a shift in priorities. The breakdown of spending on juveniles by the Ministry of Correctional Services is extremely enlightening. Last year, 1975-1976, the Ministry of Correctional Services spent \$24.6 million on children in training schools. At any one time there was an average of 900 children institutionalized in the training schools. If you do a little basic arithmetic you discover that it cost us last year \$27,333 per child per year to keep a child in a training school. That's a \$75 per diem rate. That leads to some rather interesting thoughts.

It has been shown that most children in training schools are not only children. They come from families where there are brothers and sisters who have much the same problems as they do, come obviously from the same environment and are struggling with similar problems in school and their communities or with their families or whatever it may be. For some reason, which is not clear to the researchers, one child in the family rather than another ends up in the training school at a cost of \$75 a day and the other children are left at home very often with very little backup services for the family as such. There will be some after-care for the child who is a ward of the training school but the family is very often left to sink or swim.

That \$75 a day could be, I would think, a very ironic amount to spend on a child, particularly if his mother was in receipt of family benefits and was being allowed the princely sum of between \$60 and \$70 a month to bring up each of her other children. She might wonder what it was about

one child that made him so very special and so deserving of so many thousands of dollars when the needs of the rest of the family continue to be ignored.

It looks very likely that we'll be spending about the same this year on children in training schools. The budget is about \$20 million. The client count is expected to be down, but per diems will probably be about the same. When we look at the money expended on children receiving care in the community under the Ministry of Correctional Services we really see where the priorities lie. Instead of the 900 children who are in training schools, there were 6,600, some of whom are on probation, and some of whom are receiving the services of a probation officer as wards of the training schools under the after-care programme. The total budget last year to look after those 6,500 children was \$5.9 million. It is much cheaper to look after a child in the community, only \$893 a year compared to the \$27,500 for that child in a training school.

The group homes are getting to be a fairly expensive proposition. Last year there were 200 children in the group homes, and we spent \$2.7 million, which makes a per diem of about \$37 a day. This is very interesting when the Minister of Correctional Services is willing to spend an average of \$37 a day on children in group homes but finds difficulty in allowing Viking II group homes a per diem higher than \$22 a day when they are contracting services to them from the ministry.

It's very instructive to see what's happening to group homes that are privately run by families, since Community and Social Services and Correctional staff agree that the best and healthiest kind of group home is the family-centred group home with trained, experienced parents running a small group home. Those people find themselves, under the constraints of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, unable to increase their charges at a time when the cost of running a house, of feeding the kids, of heating the house and so on, are escalating very fast.

Some group homes have managed, through careful spending, to keep their per diems as low as \$20 a day. When they announced at the beginning of this year that they needed to raise it to \$27 a day to cover the costs for the children, they were told, "We are sorry. You are only allowed to increase the cost 5.5 per cent, so you can add \$1.10 and try to look after those children for \$21.10 a day."

The group home operators are beginning to find that those who scream loudest get the most help. But that isn't the way it should be in 1976 for children being looked after in group homes. The people who are looking after them should have the same financial security that the children would have if they were living in a group home run directly by a ministry such as Correctional Services. Those 200 children have \$13,500 spent on them per child per year, which is considerably more than the average wage in Ontario at the moment. Foster homes are a real bargain to the ministry. There are 200 children in foster homes at any one time under the care of the Ministry of Correctional Services, and it only costs \$5,000 a year for each child in a foster home. So the further we get away from the institution, the cheaper it is to look after children.

It would make sense, I suppose, and people could justify the expenditure of those enormous amounts of money on children living in institutions, if it could be proved that the institution was more successful than any other means of care for children in trouble with the law. The trouble is that we keep repeating the same old mistake year after year. We pump millions of dollars into institutions, we don't beef up very much the money that we give to community-based services, and the institutions continue to fail our children.

Even with the new, more humane, more child-oriented programmes, there is no proof at all as yet that the success rate of training schools is any higher than it ever was. In fact, one of the most instructive tables year after year in the annual report of the Ministry of Correctional Services is the one in which they outline the reasons for termination of wardships for young people who have been wards of the training school. As you probably know, Mr. Speaker, legally you can't be a ward of the training school after you reach your 18th birthday, and any child who is a ward of the training school at that time is automatically, as they so elegantly put it, terminated.

It is instructive to compare the figures from five years ago and this last year and see if we have had any improvement at all in how we are handling children in the training schools. The answer has to be no. It just seems impossible for this government to learn from its mistakes. In 1971, 1,253 children—wards—were terminated from their wardship. I guess the figure we should look for is the number that the ministry considered to have successfully adjusted during the time they were wards of the ministry and who could be

allowed to go free without the constraints of being under the ministry.

[8:45]

Of those 1,253 young people in 1971, the adjustment of only 259 of them was considered satisfactory before the termination age of 18. That's a pretty terrifyingly low success rate; 621 of them reached the age of 18 and presumably were allowed to become free adults, and we don't know what happened to them then. We do know, however, that 187 were placed on probation to adult court while they were still wards of the training schools and 113 of them were sentenced to an adult institution. That's 300 out of those 1,253. About a quarter of the wards graduated, again to use a favourite word of the Ministry of Correctional Services, directly into the adult criminal cycle, 50 more in fact than were considered to have satisfactorily terminated their wardship.

Some of them moved out of the province and some of them disappeared. A quarter went straight on to adult court or jail and 259 were considered to have terminated satisfactorily. We'll skip the intervening years, because the figures are repeated almost identically, and have a look at 1975 when we had 1,371 terminations. It sounds like something out of 1984, you are going to be terminated when you reached 18. In 1975, 764 were terminated only because they had reached their 18th birthday. Even less of them than in 1971 were considered to have satisfactorily adjusted, only 245 out of the 1,371, while 232 of them were placed on probation to adult court and 74 were sentenced to adult institutions. We've still got over 300 going straight on into the world of adult court and adult criminal sanction. There has been study after study to show that once one is in the court conviction cycle it is incredibly difficult to get out of it.

There's one very frightening figure for 1975, and I meant to ask the minister about this during the estimates. Ten wards died during the year 1975. That seems to me to be an unusually high proportion for young people who are at the peak of their health and development. But again we find that far more children go straight on to adult court than are considered to have satisfactorily learnt something or adjusted or however you want to put it through the wardship procedures of the training schools. We still are learning nothing from that. We still continue to institutionalize our young adults at a rate of—

Hon. J. R. Smith: That is why we closed Cambridge.

Ms. Sandeman: You closed Cambridge because 10 children died there?

Hon. J. R. Smith: No, the reason we closed Cambridge was to deinstitutionalize.

Mr. Warner: You're going to phase them out.

Ms. Sandeman: You're going to phase them out but at the end of April of this year you had over 1,100 children in the institutions. There are no alternatives. The phasing is an extremely slow and almost invisible procedure. Even if the juvenile section of the ministry believes it is phasing out institutional care, there is something that has to be got through to people who are responsible for dealing with adult offenders, because we have a frightening high rate of putting 16-, 17- and 18-year-olds into jail in this province.

In fact, the percentage of young people going to jail in Ontario as a percentage of the total inmate population is increasing, although the total inmate population has been dropping slowly between 1971 and 1975. The proportion of inmates aged between 16 and 18 has gone up quite considerably and shows no real signs of dropping back again. In 1971, 17 per cent of the inmates in our adult provincial jails were 18 years and under. By 1975, it was 24 per cent as it was in 1974 and in 1973.

That is a very frightening thing to look at when we consider the implications of the new federal legislation which may become law and may have to be faced by this province. The juvenile section of the Ministry of Correctional Services is going to have to come face to face with the fact that if the new legislation takes hold in Ontario, they are going to have around 67,000 young people in conflict with the law whom the adult court thinks should be institutionalized. The ministry is going to have to decide if that is what they wish to continue to do with them as juveniles and, if they don't, what and where are the alternatives?

It would make sense to me, and I'm sure the ministry is already wrestling with this problem, to recognize once again that institutional care is high-priced and, on the whole, unsuccessful. We never ever seem to learn from our mistakes.

The government—Mr. McKeough himself—is very keen on private enterprise, on the merits of a well-run business. They're always telling us that government could do well to emulate the merits of a well-run private en-

terprise. I have to think, when I look at the adult and juvenile institutions of this province, that if they were, for instance, a factory making airplanes, they wouldn't survive for too long. If a factory producing expensive airplanes produced so many planes that came crashing down from the skies we would soon suggest that such a dangerous, expensive and unpopular procedure should be reconsidered. At the very least the factory should be retooled or probably the people should travel by rail.

I would suggest that we reconsider our spending priorities with regard to putting juveniles and young adults in jail when we have such a huge expenditure of money and such a conspicuously poor success rate.

Mr. Warner: The system doesn't work.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: What do we do? Let them all work?

Mr. Warner: You're supposed to have the answers.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Ms. Sandeman: What we are seeing, in fact—

Mr. Warner: How many years have you been around here?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Peterborough has the floor.

Mr. Foulds: Stop rattling your bars, John.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Peterborough will continue without interruption.

Ms. Sandeman: What we're seeing in this province at the moment, Mr. Speaker, is not a shift in spending priorities—in this area at least. Large amounts of money are being poured into jails and institutions while preventive programmes go unfunded or underfunded.

The Ministry of Correctional Services recently produced a very interesting research document on the success of inmates at Vanier. I see that the minister made reference to it during his budget speech on Friday. What he didn't make reference to was one of the conclusions of the research paper. This was that most of the women who left Vanier continued to live in very unsatisfactory surroundings—economic, psychological, physical and social. The problems which had plagued them before they were institutionalized were not alleviated by taking them out of circulation from four to six months, and

continued after their release. The recidivism rate was very high.

Many of the young women were separated from children and the rate of emotional illness in those women was far larger than in any representative population across Ontario. One has to ask again why we would spend so much money to put those women into Vanier—and many of them are young women—when there are alternative ways of dealing with the social problems which plagued them both before and after their incarceration.

A government which is willing to spend and does spend \$27,500 a year on juvenile delinquents is curiously reluctant to subsidize daycare places. These are a preventive service and may be preventing the necessity for such expensive institutions in the future. They are curiously reluctant to give more support to mothers alone who may be the same mothers of the children who are in training schools. They are curiously reluctant to improve the employment picture for teenagers and young adults, the same population that we seem so eager to incarcerate at great cost to us all.

This government—and it seems very odd to me—is wedded, apparently, to the most expensive options at a time when the necessity of restraint would give it a perfect opportunity for beefing up preventive programmes and for finding innovative ways of keeping juveniles and young adults out of jail. Other jurisdictions have done it both for adults and young people. In Holland, in Japan, in California, in Massachusetts, in certain areas of the British Isles, people are being kept out of jail with no increase in the crime rate, at a lot less cost than we are seeing at the moment.

I think perhaps I should suggest that the Minister of Correctional Services and I would go and visit Holland and see how they have managed to close their jails.

An hon. member: You just want to get rid of him for a while.

Ms. Sandeman: The fear of most people is that if you close prisons, the crime rate will dramatically rise. This has been proven in jurisdiction after jurisdiction not to be true. The converse is obviously true. We build more and bigger and better prisons and the crime rate continues to rise. There is a certain logical lapse in the argument.

In Holland, Japan and other countries where new methods are being pioneered—methods which not only give better results than imprisonment, but should appeal to this

government and to all of us because they cost less—in these countries crime rates are not rising. They are finding innovative ways to use communities to deal with offenders and to prevent further offences. We are only at the very beginning of that process and we seem to be curiously loath to give it a chance to succeed.

The advantage for a government and for all who are concerned with restraint is that deinstitutionalizing costs less in dollars and it costs much much less in wasted life and in social costs which seem to be hidden from the eyes of the present government.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You are for deinstitutionalization?

Mr. R. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to cover just a few things that have an effect on northern Ontario—on my riding particularly, but I think that generally speaking it would apply across the whole of the north. As you and most other members are aware, there is a movement in northern Ontario, which has been spearheaded by a person from my riding, to form a new province up there, and now they are in the process of forming a new party.

Mr. Foulds: A former Conservative Party member.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Yes, he's a former Conservative actually.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Supported by the NDP, I might add. You are right on.

[9:00]

Mr. R. S. Smith: Likely. But he spoke in your city about two weeks ago to the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities. He was what might be called the first outside spokesman to speak to that group, because in the past there has been kind of a written rule that nobody—no one, I should say; maybe nobody fits better—no one but cabinet ministers from this government would speak to the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities as official speakers; that's why I say you could maybe transpose "nobody" for "no one". I have refused to attend meetings on that basis and have always replied to their invitations by saying that when a member of one of the two opposition parties, or the leaders of those parties, is asked to give an address to that body, then perhaps the members belonging to that party should take the time to attend their meetings.

I believe that the attitude put forward by that group of people is a part of the reason for the existence of Mr. Diebel and his group

in moving toward a fourth party. The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities is obviously blind to the democratic process and believes that if it is to get things from government, it must run around and at least seem to be fully supportive of that government and the party that forms that government. Of course, this is untrue, and the fact that the government is not much better represented in northern Ontario than is this party, belies the fact that the people in northern Ontario feel the same way as the municipal leaders do.

I would say to the municipal leaders who belong to the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities that unless they broaden their scope and become less narrow in their attitude toward, first, the democratic process and, second, the other two parties, the official opposition party and our own party, and begin to listen to them as well as to government, they are going to hold northern Ontario back just as they have for the last 50 years. I believe that the attitude of those people, which is expressed in the way they operate their association, has held northern Ontario back for the last 50 years and will continue to do so.

I believe also that their great move in accepting Mr. Diebel as their guest speaker perhaps shows even more clearly the fact that they do not recognize the official opposition party and the third party in this Legislature. That applied before September, 1971, as it does now. I believe that a lot of the problems in northern Ontario lie on the doorsteps of those kinds of people, who are partly within that organization called the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

I would like to spend a short period of time talking about the restraint programme and how it has—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: They invited your leader, but he didn't go. He didn't know where it was.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Oh, I see. That's patently untrue. He wasn't invited. To make sure, I asked him if he had been invited. But we can understand that when it comes from the minister who represents Sault Ste. Marie—for the time being, at least.

Hon. J. R. Smith: He was stuck in Burlington.

Mr. Martel: He is going skiing there next winter.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I will tell you one thing; it will be a long time before I am replaced by a Grit.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I think the people in that area are going to react the same way as they have across the rest of northern Ontario, and the Conservatives will be the third party, at least in northern Ontario, after the next election.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Under your dynamic new leader?

Mr. R. S. Smith: Not under the minister's leadership anyway. What party does he belong to anyway? It's hard to keep track.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: It's hard to keep track of you, whether you are here or not.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Anyway, I'd just like to make a few other remarks, to say that the restraint programme in this province is really based on discrimination against the poor, as individuals, and the poor in those areas that are regionally deprived. That is some place where restraint programmes should be put into effect.

I believe we first got wind of what was going to happen in Ontario when it was announced last fall that the Ontario Educational Communications Authority had cancelled its programmes that it had previously announced for northern Ontario. I'll quote from the communication authority's regional council meeting:

The Ontario cabinet recently decided to postpone indefinitely the extension of ETV in northern Ontario. The five northern cities that were to be affected by the cabinet's decision were Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins and North Bay. They were all a part of phase three of the network extension.

We ask you to consider two important points in responding to this: The cabinet decision does not affect phase two of the network programme involving southern Ontario. New stations are still going into Ottawa, London, Kitchener, Chatham and Windsor. It seems clear to us that the educational and cultural opportunities provided by OECA programming are being withdrawn from the very people who are most in need of them. The cabinet's stated reason for postponing the stations, in line with recommendations in the report of the special programme review, was fiscal restraint. The fiscal restraint was made to apply, as far as ETV was concerned, in

the northern part of the province but not in the south.

I believe that that, in itself, is discriminatory. The combined capital and operating costs of the Sudbury and Thunder Bay stations would have been \$1,466,000. The cost to OECA, and therefore to the taxpayers, of buying out contracts they had already signed to provide that type of service into those five areas of northern Ontario, would likely be more than \$900,000. So there's \$900,000 down the drain, yet a total expenditure of just under \$1.5 million would have provided the service to at least the two major communities. There could have been a negotiated settlement on that basis but the government chose to waste \$900,000 and deprive those communities in that part of the province of ETV.

They did suggest, however, that they would put it through cable. Cable, as an alternative, is not attractive at all but it is going to be provided at a cost which, when added to the \$900,000 to get out of the contracts which they had made, will be far higher than the original cost of providing ETV through the whole area. Cable will only go into those homes that can afford to buy it and will only go into those homes where cable itself is provided which is in only certain areas of northern Ontario. Only 33,600 will receive the scheduled service through cable whereas, under the first programme, 151,000 people would have received the programming.

So we can see that the government has wasted \$900,000 on the one hand and is now spending approximately \$500,000 on cable to provide what could have been provided right across the whole of northern Ontario for \$1.5 million. This is what they call fiscal restraint. It is very difficult to follow if one can add or subtract what kind of restraint that produces—except that it takes away from 120,000 people the ability to watch cable TV in northern Ontario. I believe that was the first indication we had that any type of fiscal restraint was to be put in place.

The second thing, as far as my particular district was concerned, was in regard to the regional priorities budget. On May 14, 1975, the Premier (Mr. Davis) made a statement and put out a news release in which he outlined new programmes under the regional priority budget. I will just quote from his statement:

Today I am pleased to announce that a wide range of new provincial initiatives are being added to the list of regional priority budget projects at a cost of more than \$10 million. In North Bay the prov-

ince proposes an expenditure of \$1.25 million for the establishment of an industrial park and the installation of an infrastructure—that is, basic facilities such as water pipes, sewerage and so on. Water and sewer projects are also proposed for a number of other areas.

As you go on through his statement, he goes on to say:

We have a great many more initiatives in mind [This is prior to the election] for northwestern Ontario, for northeastern Ontario and for the eastern Ontario region, [He is covering the whole province with all his political promises] and these could conceivably involve the Ontario government in a dozen or more new cost-sharing agreements with Ottawa.

This is what he said on May 14 at the same time as the government of this province was going around and the Treasurer himself was indicating that the province would enter into no further contractual agreements on cost-sharing programmes with the federal government. Here we had the Premier making promises of contractual agreements under DREE and under regional disparity and the Treasurer at the same time saying we were not going to enter into any such agreements.

Even though the Premier made those promises and they are documented in his own press release, on Dec. 17 under the signature of the Treasurer a letter was sent out to the city of North Bay indicating that they had cancelled the infrastructure and industrial park grant under the regional priority budget for some unknown reason. Other than the fact that it could have been political and it was just cancelling out political pre-election promises made by the Premier, I have been unable to find out the actual reasons since then.

I have written to the Premier and received no reply. I have written and talked with the Treasurer and received different replies on different occasions, depending on his mood and his temperament. It becomes clear that the Premier was using not only that programme but many others in northeastern Ontario in an attempt to buy votes. One really has to wonder about his intentions when he made those statements and one really has to wonder about his integrity of purpose which became an election issue, when one looks back at what he said then and what is being told to these communities now.

There were a number of programmes in that regional priority budget, such as police protection for Indian reserves, and I believe

that some of those have gone ahead. But community resource centres—\$220,000—there was none of them during this fiscal year. Fire protection in unorganized territories has not since been heard of and he promised \$150,000 for that. There was northern Ontario consumer education which seems rather stupid when what they should be perhaps providing in northern Ontario is an education programme to differentiate between the truth and what the Premier says and what he is going to do. That might be of more use to the people in northern Ontario than consumer education.

[9:15]

In Red Lake he promised hospital accommodation for \$120,000 which has not been produced as of yet. In northeastern Ontario he promised supplementary assistance to mental retardation facilities in the amount of \$30,000. This has not been provided and, if it is provided, it will be directly from federal moneys that have already been collected last year by this government from the federal government for that purpose. One can see that his whole statement is almost a fabrication and part of the restraint programme is the cancellation of many of the promises the Premier made across northern Ontario during his campaign during last summer and up to September. It's quite obvious that he wasn't serious with those people and I don't think they will take him very seriously again.

The next matter I'd like to deal with just for a short period of time is the federal-provincial programme DREE. In July of last year there was an agreement drawn up by the officials of the Treasurer's department along with the federal government for northeastern Ontario which was signed by him and the federal minister of the day in charge of DREE—I think it was Mr. Jamieson. There was also a supplementary agreement drawn up under that programme which was to provide for infrastructure and additional assistance for the provision of sewer, water and such things to the city of North Bay in the amount of \$9.7 million. The agreement was in the hands of the minister here in late July and in the hands of the federal minister at the same time, and had the full approval of both ministries and the full recommendations of both ministries that the ministers sign the agreement.

The provincial minister decided it wasn't in his best political interests at that time to sign such an agreement so he put it off. He told the federal DREE people it would be looked after in September. I think this will

be corroborated by the officials within the federal DREE department and by the ministry in Ottawa.

After Sep. 18, the Treasurer visited Ottawa and visited directly with the federal minister then in charge of DREE, who had changed from Mr. Jamieson to Mr. Lessard. The provincial Treasurer, being a much more astute and experienced negotiator, was able to convince the federal minister that he had a change in priorities and his change in priorities excluded the commitment that had been made by the DREE people, both provincially and federally, to North Bay. The agreement was not only not fulfilled in any way, but it was just completely discarded. Two agreements were signed, one with the city of Sudbury to provide the city of Sudbury an amount of \$3 million and a second one to provide the town of Parry Sound, which has a population of 6,000 people, some \$2 million.

I can understand the Treasurer's anxiety in wishing to provide the city of Sudbury with any assistance he can because he knows as well as I that, since the inception of regional government in Sudbury which was brought into this Legislature and pushed through this Legislature by himself, there has been nothing but what the former Treasurer, Mr. MacNaughton, would call a fiscal nightmare in that area.

At the present time, the metropolitan city of Sudbury and the regional district have a debt of some \$133 million. There's no question, and I believe those members from that area would agree with me, that the regional government in Sudbury is on the borderline of bankruptcy.

Mr. Martel: A fiscal nightmare.

Mr. R. S. Smith: As I said before, it was a fiscal nightmare, correct.

Mr. Bullbrook: Was the member for Sudbury East asleep?

Mr. Martel: No.

Mr. R. S. Smith: The reason and the cause of that fiscal nightmare in that area is the Treasurer who brought it about when he formed the regional government in that area and promoted or demoted or sent—I don't know what you'd call it—Mr. Collins, who is a former deputy minister within this government, to Sudbury to be the head of that regional government. From there on it was downhill. I almost think Mr. Collins must have been a remittance man in Sudbury, I don't know. But anyway it was downhill

from there on and they eventually came to a point where they had a deficit of \$133 million. There was great difficulty there, and the present Treasurer must accept that responsibility.

So the DREE programme becomes one of those programmes which must pump money into that area. Yet even now, as I understand it, the moneys which DREE has committed to the area are perhaps not going to be used in the way which has been outlined in the agreement. I would urge the Treasurer at least to have the courage and decency to make sure that the moneys that are put into that area for the establishment of an industrial park—and under a federal-provincial agreement, with which he always seems to disagree but which he always takes advantage of—are used to develop such an industrial park.

The moneys that went into Parry Sound are another question altogether. Obviously there is a need in that area to bolster—how should I put it?—the fortunes of the party in power. The Liberal Party likely will succeed in that district in the forthcoming election, but in the meantime the Treasurer is going to do as much as he can to support the incumbent. So we had a switch into Parry Sound of an amount of \$2 million for infrastructure in a town of 6,000 people. That is a lot of money to put into a town that size.

I would like to point out here that it goes against the recommendations that have been made in another study that the minister has given us with some fanfare—Northeastern Ontario Regional Strategy, or the Design for Development, Phase 2. That document names four subregional centres—Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay and Timmins—which should first receive all the assistance that can be provided for growth, so that we would develop those four growth centres first.

The DREE is not tied in with the recommendations of the Design for Development, by the way, which took about 10 years to arrive but is now just off on a shelf. In effect it is in opposition to the recommendations that are made by the government itself in the northeastern Ontario regional strategy. The minister gave us these just a few weeks ago with some great fanfare along with other regional programme developments for the whole of Ontario.

So not only are these moneys being used for political purposes, they are also being used to undermine the regional programme of development for all of northeastern Ontario. I think he holds a great responsibility in that regard.

The Climate for Development, Ontario Region—that is part six of those same documents that I referred to—has made a number of suggestions. Although I believe we are going to have one day set aside for the study of these documents, they are so significant to my area and since the public hearings are going to be held in that area within the next couple of weeks, I would like to put my ideas in regard to these matters on the record.

The Climate for Development, Ontario Region, includes a number of statements. Under "Summary and Prospects" it says:

External trade and housing starts are also expected to improve over 1975 levels, but to remain below levels achieved in earlier years. Unemployment should continue to be relatively high as the labour force growth is strong, and there is scope for labour productivity gains within the economy.

In other words, what this government is now saying insofar as our province is concerned is that unemployment levels will not level out or be reduced but will continue at their present rate. They seem to be proud of that fact, just as they are proud of the fact that they are supposedly increasing the number of housing starts in this current year, which is up to now very difficult to see. There's a second paragraph under that heading:

Although the province is committed to the principle of decentralizing growth, the large urban areas of the south continue to grow at the expense of the rural and northern areas.

This is just what we on this side of the House have been trying to tell the government for the decade or so that I've been here. It continues:

As a result of sharpening world and national competition, the emphasis of the Ontario government has been and will continue to be on the attraction of industry to the province.

This is not necessarily to those areas of slow growth. There's no mention of that. The report goes on in a number of other areas, and I'd just like to quote a few of them:

Insofar as northeastern Ontario is concerned, growth was strongest in the Sudbury district at four per cent. In the districts of Algoma and Timiskaming, however, there were population declines between the year 1971 and 1974. Low-income levels are most evident in the Manitoulin, Parry Sound, Timiskaming and Nipissing districts. One may note, for instance, the relative success which the

DREE programme has had in diversifying industry in the region.

And yet in those areas where the DREE programme has diversified industry, we find lower incomes. The report also says insofar as mining is concerned:

Vast areas in northern Ontario with high or moderate mineral potential have yet to be adequately explored. The new processing allowances and other incentives in the recent regulations under the Mining Tax Act are anticipated to encourage further development opportunities in the northland. These measures were designed to maintain the competitiveness of the Ontario mining industry. Future development, particularly in the more remote areas of Ontario, will be dependent on resource taxation, labour costs, world demand for minerals and conservation policies.

It also goes on to point out the dependency of the province in regard to the incomes from this industry. I should say that this government appears to be more interested in the incomes it can gather from that industry than in the development of the area where that industry has been established. This has been evident for some years now but, even in these new documents that were tabled just a few weeks ago, the same situation seems to exist.

There's another portion that says the forest-based industries should provide some limited development opportunities over the next few years. I would say that "some limited development opportunities" is obviously an overstatement. Because of the silvicultural programmes that have been developed by this government, it has become more obvious as the years go by that the number of jobs that will be created in that industry will be decreasing rather than increasing.

In my area, obviously the number of jobs in the forest industry has almost come to nil. I believe in the whole district there is something like 600 to 700 jobs where there used to be between 3,000 and 4,000 jobs. One can see that the depletion of our natural resources as far as the forest-based industries are concerned has certainly taken place and there's no way that it can be turned around in a very few short years. One would have to look to 30 or 40 years to turning it around and none of us are going to see those days or perhaps very few of us.

[9:30]

Beyond that, I would like to comment for a bit on the northeastern Ontario regional study which I referred to a few minutes ago and which has received a fair bit of com-

ment from people in the north, particularly in regard to its omissions rather than what it contains. But I would like to give a little background before I make too many remarks.

First of all, in 1965 the then Premier of the province indicated that within six months there would be a programme for the industrial development of northern Ontario. That's 11 years ago, and to this day we haven't seen it. There was commissioned a study called Phase 1, Design for Development: Northeastern Ontario. We finally received that study in 1971. It was commissioned, I believe, in 1967 just prior to the election of that year. It was received in 1971, just prior to the election of that year, and contained nothing but a cataloguing of fence posts, light standards and what-not that occur here and there all across northeastern Ontario. It was nothing more than a description of the area and perhaps the development that had taken place up to that time.

The government then promised that Phase 2 would be forthcoming within two years and would be the design for development. Finally, it was tabled, I believe, about a month ago. It is really not a programme for development but is only for discussion purposes. Since the parliamentary assistant to the minister is here, maybe I will quote from what he said in regard to this document. He said: "Phase 2 is neither official nor conclusive." He certainly was right when he said that.

An hon. member: He said that?

Mr. R. S. Smith: That's right. He is really honest; everybody would agree with that.

Hon. J. R. Smith: Tell us the truth.

Mr. R. S. Smith: He went on: "It is simply a proposal for an overall strategy, with room for modifications." And he was certainly right in saying that. "It provides the general framework for future decision-making by government and by the people of the region."

Mr. Nixon: Famous Tory flexibility.

Mr. Norton: The word is "responsiveness."

Mr. R. S. Smith: Responsiveness?

Mr. Samis: Where?

Mr. Nixon: Like a rubber band.

Mr. R. S. Smith: It has taken 11 years to get to this point, and I say to the parliamentary assistant that that's longer than he and I have to wait.

Mr. Norton: Eleven years, 100 years—we never calcify.

Mr. Samis: Calcify? What about the east?

Mr. Wildman: The member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) says you know about the problems but you don't have time for them.

Mr. Martel: We just need a Ministry of Northern Ontario, that's all. There is one logical man left.

Mr. R. S. Smith: That's likely what we will get, a Ministry of Northern Ontario—which will not mean a damned thing.

Some hon. members: That's right.

Mr. R. S. Smith: My friend knows that as well as I do, and that will be the direct result of all the input of 11 years.

Mr. Martel: The member for Algoma-Manitoulin might have a job.

Mr. R. S. Smith: The final work of the Treasurer and his parliamentary assistant will be a new ministry, probably headed by the present Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) or the Minister without Portfolio from Cochrane North (Mr. Brunelle). They obviously couldn't make the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) the Minister of Northern Ontario; that would be just too much. But it will be one of those very few people that the Conservatives have up there.

Mr. Norton: Why not the Minister of Housing? Are you suggesting housing is not important in northern Ontario?

Mr. R. S. Smith: I am suggesting he is not important in northern Ontario.

Mr. Norton: You should not engage in—you are hitting below the belt.

Mr. Samis: What do you know about that, Keith?

Mr. R. S. Smith: That's not below the belt. I tell the guy a lot of things. I told him I didn't know what party he belonged to. I thought that was even worse than that.

Mr. Samis: It was an acupunch.

Mr. Norton: It is not very kind.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Anyway, he left, and the people of northern Ontario are not going to miss him tonight any more than they have missed him for the last number of years.

But, since that time, and particularly in the last year and a half, I think I have ques-

tioned the Treasurer on four occasions in the House as to when he was going to finally table Phase II of Design for Development. He kept saying, "In a few more weeks. In a few more weeks." At one time he said, "My predecessor left it sitting there for three years and didn't do anything with it," and he meant John White by that, if you will recall. And that's a paraphrase of what he said in Hansard.

Interjection.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Because he was saying, when he was Treasurer—before he resigned and flew home to London before the Premier got back from the other London to fire him—that he was coming out with the Design for Development in a few weeks then. And that's about five years ago.

Mr. Norton: Depends upon how you define "few."

Mr. R. S. Smith: A few weeks, I said. Weeks, when you talk about weeks that means three or four at the most; a few weeks is three or four. Then you start talking about months. That's the calendar—you might look at it some time.

Anyway, following that he was out as the Treasurer and we had John White. John White obviously took the thing and stuck it away up on a shelf and said, "To hell with those people in northern Ontario, they can put on another sweater."

Mr. Norton: He wouldn't say that.

Mr. R. S. Smith: The third thing is, he told them about the tax.

Mr. Norton: He wouldn't say it like that.

Mr. R. S. Smith: He wouldn't say it like that, he would be much more specific and much more vocal. He wouldn't say it like that.

Hon. J. R. Smith: Just because he lived in London South.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Nipissing has the floor.

Interjections.

Mr. R. S. Smith: But anyway that is exactly what happened and those are the words of the present Treasurer who said, "I don't know what my predecessor did. He left it there for three years and did nothing." So then we had two years of this Treasurer back

again before we finally got the Design for Development and then we found out that it was nothing but a proposal. It wasn't the design at all. So we've come 11 years forward and we have finally obtained a Design for Development which is obviously only a proposal.

I would just like to go through a few of the things that are included in that document. I'll quote the minister; he started with this statement in the Soo again. All these ministers really have a great time going to the Soo; it's about the only place they go in northern Ontario. I guess it's the only place they are welcome.

But anyway, as I'm sure you all know by now, and I'm quoting Mr. McKeough, the long-awaited report entitled Northeastern Ontario Regional Strategy has been tabled in the House and is now being distributed throughout the regions. "I can understand why some of you grew rather impatient to see this document," he said, and I would indicate to you that that is in fact an understatement.

He went on to say the reason that he is circulating the document is so that he can get feedback from the people in the area. Of course, that's very good, but it could have been done about five years ago. And it was circulated—

Mr. Norton: Be careful, Dick, don't knock that.

Mr. R. S. Smith: It was circulated on a number of occasions to a small group of people in northeastern Ontario and each time it came back and they said it's no good, it's lousy. They then spent money to hire a university professor at Nipissing University—

Mr. Norton: At where?

Mr. R. S. Smith: Nipissing College, and they paid—

Mr. Norton: You have the wrong name.

Mr. R. S. Smith: No, he is a sociologist, a professor at the university and also a member of the Conservative Party.

Mr. Bain: That is why he was hired.

Mr. R. S. Smith: They paid him some money.

Interjection.

Mr. R. S. Smith: They paid him a goodly sum of money to rewrite the document, and he did that late in the fall of last year.

Mr. Norton: I think you have the wrong thing. You are talking about a report that was commissioned by—

Mr. R. S. Smith: No.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Only the hon. member for Nipissing has the floor.

Mr. R. S. Smith: He rewrote what he thought should be included in the document. It was referred right through the ministry to the Treasurer himself.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Nipissing only.

Mr. R. S. Smith: By the time it got to the Treasurer it had really lost its significance, just as the whole thing has done in the past three weeks. That report, which could have perhaps saved the document, was practically ignored. I have seen the report. It's quite different from this jumble of words that have been put out here and which are being provided across northern Ontario—

Mr. Martel: Mish-mash.

Mr. R. S. Smith: —as a proposal for I don't know what and neither does anybody else.

Mr. Norton: Not over there.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Except the fact that the Treasurer can now get up and say, "I have tabled the Design for Development, Phase II."

Mr. Martel: We remain the hinterland.

Mr. R. S. Smith: And that may be his one sole accomplishment.

Mr. Norton: That's not so.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Nipissing, please. Order, please.

Mr. Martel: The Liberals asked for it.

Mr. Bain: The land the government ignores and exploits.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. R. S. Smith: The Treasurer, at the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities meeting to which I referred in my opening remarks, is so oriented toward his own party, it's almost a peculiar situation. He said, "Here is what we think is a reasonable approach. What do you think?" If he really wants to know what the people of northern Ontario think he should ask somebody else but that group, because that group hasn't had an initiative thought in the last 20 years.

Mr. Norton: Which group?

Mr. R. S. Smith: The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities. The obvious rea-

son they haven't had that type of thought in the last 20 years is because they all belong to the same political organization and they allow no one else in. You know that as well as I.

Mr. Norton: You don't have much confidence in the people of northern Ontario.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Pardon?

Mr. Norton: You don't have much confidence—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Nipissing will proceed.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I don't have. No, I don't have. I was a municipal elected representative in northern Ontario—

Mr. Norton: That's insulting.

Mr. R. S. Smith: —before I came here, and we invited all people to our meetings. We didn't differentiate between those people on that side or these people on this side. At that time, it was perhaps a viable organization but since then, it's just gone like that.

Mr. Norton: What an incredibly condescending attitude.

Mr. Ferrier: You don't know the facts.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Now, I'll read another platitudinous statement from this document and you can comment on that.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Talk about condescending. This whole thing represents the condescending attitude of both you and your minister.

Mr. Martel: Junk! That doesn't even make good junk mail.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I'll read this statement: "The principal goal suggested in the report is to promote—"

Mr. Martel: You need a shredder for that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Nipissing has the floor only. Only. Order, please. If the hon. member wishes to remain in the House, he will remain silent. The hon. member for Nipissing has—order, please.

Mr. Davison: Well, tell that to him, too.

Mr. Speaker: I think if the hon. members—order, please—will take the time to read the Hansard tomorrow, they'll see how silly these interjections have been. Now the mem-

ber for Nipissing only has the floor. Will he proceed, please?

Mr. Martel: Tell the member for Kingston and the Islands, too—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Sudbury East will not continue after I request him to remain silent, please. The hon. member for Nipissing has the floor.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I'll just read this remark and then you can label it whatever you like:

The principal goal suggested in the report is to promote economic development in a way that ensures that the benefits will accrue primarily to the people of north-eastern Ontario, that makes best use of the region's potential and that respects the environment and cultural attitudes of the region.

That has to be the most platitudinous statement I've ever heard, almost. It's only been surpassed by some made by the Premier. Anyway—

Mr. Bullbrook: When John Robarts called OHIP—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Nipissing.

Mr. Bullbrook: When he called OHIP a Machiavellian scheme, I thought that was a dandy one.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Nipissing, thank you.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Yes. Well, the Machiavellian schemes are much more prevalent here than they are down there. Anyway—

Hon. Mr. Kerr: He called it blackmail, too.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I'd just like to go on a bit in this statement:

First, greater stability of production and levels of earning; second, increased diversity of jobs; third, improved productivity and earnings; fourth, more jobs and larger population.

By God, I hope he does it because those people in grade 3 who are reading this for the first time are hearing something for the first time. But everybody above that has heard this same thing at least 25 or 30 times. You know, it's just a reiteration of the same old garbage that we've been getting for, well, 30 years, and perhaps half a century.

Mr. Wildman: The question is how they're going to do it.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I won't make much further comment on the Treasurer's remarks in regard to the northeastern Ontario regional strategy. But I would just like to make some reference to the Design for Development itself and perhaps a few comments on it and what it contains.

[9:45]

I indicated a few minutes ago that Phase 1 of this report was brought in in 1971, and five years later we now have Phase 2. It took six years for Phase 1, five years for Phase 2, and now it's called the proposal for discussions—which will perhaps add another three or four years. So, in 15 years we may come to a definitive strategy, or plan, or whatever you would like to call it, Mr. Speaker. They have changed this now from a plan to a strategy, because that seems to be the new term.

Anyway, I would like to just make a few comments on some of the things that are in this report. I would refer to development conditions and issues in northeastern Ontario and population changes. I think if you would look at page 5, the charts will show that the rate of growth in northeastern Ontario is far below half that of the province.

For example, the 1961 population of the Sudbury regional municipality was 137,000. The 1966 population was 147,000. The 1971 population was 168,000. So we had an increase in that 10-year period of about 7.4 per cent, which is much less than half the average growth. Of course, Sudbury is the largest and fastest growing area in northeastern Ontario—so you can imagine what the rest was like.

Some areas had minus growth. Sault Ste. Marie and the rest of the Algoma district had a minus growth of 16 per cent. Nipissing district—and that's my district—had a minus growth of 4.1 per cent over that 10-year period. Timiskaming had a minus growth of 7.5 per cent—and right down the line.

In that 10-year period there was a continual drop in the actual numbers of people in many parts of northeastern Ontario. So, for this government to say in the past 10 years they have done anything for that part of the province is patently ridiculous, since there are less people there now—in many parts of it at least—than there were 10 years ago.

I would also like to indicate the income levels in that part of the province, which are outlined in the report. In the four urban centres, Sudbury, which has just received a DREE grant, has an income level of \$6,185—

and that's the average after-tax income in 1973. Sault Ste. Marie has an average income of \$6,385. North Bay, which didn't receive a DREE grant, has an average income of \$5,604—which is about \$500 or \$600 per capita less than Sudbury. Timmins has an average income of \$5,248. This indicates that of the four subregional centres that this document covers, Timmins has the lowest income.

The average for Ontario, I would suggest, is \$6,530. In other words, the people in the rest of the province received incomes 25 per cent higher than the people in my district. Yet the cost of living in my district is higher than in the rest of the province, as indicated further on in this report—and I will refer to that. It's very difficult to live on 25 per cent less money when it costs you more to live. Perhaps that very simple fact is digestible by the government in power.

I would like to point out that it also indicates the cost of 30 selected food items as of February, 1974. It indicates that food prices in most centres of northeastern Ontario are above those in southern Ontario. In Moose Factory, food costs are 28 per cent higher than those in Metro Toronto. Incomes are at least 40 per cent lower in Moose Factory than those in Metro Toronto. So you can understand the squeeze from both sides that the people in that area feel.

The 1971 document illustrated the same things, only in this document we have updated it by about four or five years. To call this one any more would be to say that we finally have come to a plan or a strategy. But we really haven't. Those facts are still going to continue for at least another decade—if this government is left that long, which I doubt very much.

On page 21 of the document, they refer to the mining industry as being subject to short-run fluctuations in the level of world demand in prices which has slumped considerably since 1974. However, recently there is some incline again. It could take time before the world economies recover and demand and prices for minerals revive and rise. Until then, profits may be reduced.

I bring this in because earlier I had mentioned that, in effect, the minister had said we must look to an increase in the mining and forest industries and the basic resource industries if we are to look for an increased growth in northeastern Ontario. Obviously, according to his own document, we can't look forward to that type of increase on a steady basis. In fact, there is a bottoming

out in that industry periodically. As world markets soften, as they do traditionally, unemployment rises tremendously.

The document goes on and says the forest industry, like the mining industry, is subject to short-run and recurring fluctuations in demand for its wood and paper products. During the current recession in demand, many operations have cut back production and laid off workers. Reduced profits have curtailed expansion on modernization programmes at some operations.

The fact of the matter is, as I pointed out before, that this is a blatantly untrue statement. I don't believe that we can look for the forest industry in northern Ontario to increase either its production or its number of jobs. It becomes apparent that there will be a steady decline in the forest industry in northeastern Ontario because of the silvicultural programmes that have been followed by this ministry since they took over the whole programme of reforestation from the industry itself in the early 1940s.

Perhaps the most succinct statement in the whole of Phase II, Design for Development, is: "Based on current trends, the region's economy would show little change, in its basic structure by 2001." In other words, this document, which the Treasurer has tabled and says that his government supports, is saying that there will be no change in northeastern Ontario between now and 2001—and that's 25 years away.

So the document leaves northern Ontario as it is for the next 25 years. If that is not a statement of the lack of responsibility and the lack of ability of this government to do anything, I don't know what is. Any government document that says a region that is underpopulated and where incomes are much lower than the average and where the base living costs are higher than the average and says that they will remain that way for the next 25 years, obviously cannot seriously be looking for support in that area or any other part of the province.

It further goes on to say, "As in the past, resource industries would maintain their economic domination in the region." That's just what we've been trying to get away from, and I thought that is what the document was all about. But obviously, that's not going to be the case. According to the document itself, we are going to continue to depend on mining and the forest-based industries along with some tourism. These are of a nature that does not provide year-round employment in that area particularly, and does create unemployment, welfare and all the

other things that go with that type of programme.

Secondary manufacturing activity would grow slowly to quote from the document. The document itself indicates that the government is not going to do anything and can't do anything and that things are going to remain exactly the same in northeastern Ontario now and for the next 45 years as they have been for the past 45 years. I believe any ministry that will put out such a document as that does not have the interest of those people within its goals, nor does it have the interest of the province itself in the overall within those same goals.

I believe the rest of the document just goes on to point out the probable location of what might be additional industries and what might be additional development but it is very vague. There are really no specific recommendations as to what will be done and what can be done. I'd just like to refer to the concluding statement on page 78.

Throughout the formulation of this proposed regional strategy a serious effort has been made to satisfy the goals of both the residents of northeastern Ontario and the provincial government.

I believe they put those last two in an improper sequence. Obviously the document is based on the goals of the provincial government and the party in power. It is not based in any way on the goals of the residents of northeastern Ontario. It's nothing but a political pulp document which they hope will get them through the upcoming election and perhaps save the four or five seats they hold in northeastern Ontario. The fact that it makes no definitive proposals and says so and the fact that it says we will remain in the same state for the next 45 years actually is an indictment of the government itself, let alone indicating that they support the document which they have tabled.

I won't spend any further time on that document but I would just like to spend a few minutes to get back to the restraint programme and the disparity it has created in our area. I believe that this applies generally right across northern Ontario. In my area, the board of education has come down with its mill rate and it has increased the mill rate by 12.5 mills or by about 23 per cent. At the secondary level the increase is 60 per cent. For North Bay the increase has been from 17 to 27 mills for secondary education. The reason for that is that this government has completely abdicated its stated purpose in education of equalization of opportunity across the prov-

ince. For some years we have not had equalized opportunity in the north and there have been many areas in the province that have not had equalized opportunity. But at least we thought and most people thought there was some attempt being made to equalize that opportunity.

The school board in my area has provided some documents, and has been to government and met with the minister and the cabinet in order to try to impress upon them the differential between those areas where there is a small pupil assessment ration as compared to those areas with a much larger ratio of assessment per pupil. I'd just like to quote a bit from that document:

The Province of Ontario has shifted more of the burden for financing education on to local taxpayers and has appealed to us [meaning the school boards] to exercise restraint and belt-tightening.

[10:00]

That restraint and belt-tightening are obvious. They have done what they can do and the rest is being passed on to the local taxpayer with a 60 per cent increase at the secondary level in the cost of education to the local taxpayer in Nipissing district. The grant structure has meant that equality of educational opportunity was achieved across the province through assigning more grants per pupil to lower assessment areas and less to higher assessment areas. In my area, the rate of grant has been about 80 per cent of expenses for secondary and 75 per cent of expenses for elementary. This was much higher than the provincial average because Nipissing does not have a broad assessment.

The effect on low assessment areas such as Nipissing is disastrous as far as the local tax rate is concerned. The second major problem area which will affect our local taxpayers and which at this point has done so has to do with the ceilings on expenditures eligible for grants. Any expenditure above the grant ceiling must be borne entirely by the local taxpayer. Again, in low assessment areas this dictate from the ministry and from the government has hurt disastrously the tax rate in areas with that low assessment, such as ours.

It is unfortunate that the low assessment areas such as ours will suffer most from the extra burden placed on local ratepayers. It has been said that there would be a rough kind of justice applied in the fight against inflation—I believe that that was said federally. In our area it has certainly been a rough type of justice as applied by the provincial government.

I could conclude perhaps this part of my remarks by quoting from an editorial of the *Globe and Mail* of Oct. 22.

There is another serious result of the removal of ceilings. One reason for the rural equalization was to ensure that what money was available for education spending was used to give equality of educational opportunity to all Ontario students wherever they live. Now rich school districts with a lot of assessment will be able to spend much more on their students than will poor school districts with little assessment.

In other words, my children are not going to have the same opportunity as the child who lives in Toronto or Hamilton or Windsor or most southern Ontario municipalities and the same will apply to most children in northern Ontario because, generally speaking, the school boards have a much smaller assessment base on which to work.

I will quote some figures to indicate that but, first, I would like to just go through the changes in the government financing of education that have taken place during this year which have a direct result on the opportunities for the children in our area. In the case of capital construction cost projects, we all know that only those that were in process are being allowed to go ahead and others are frozen for the time being. The planning of enrolment in advance is to be discontinued and this has a direct effect on some boards of education where they do have staff designing enrolment. The third reason is, for recognized extraordinary expenditures, which include transportation and debenture costs, the rates of provincial support will be at the basic level of 75 per cent for a school board of average wealth.

Since we do not have in northern Ontario school boards with average wealth but rather those with much below the average level, our basic level prior to that dictate was 89 per cent of the approved costs for transportation and debenture costs at the secondary level and 80 per cent at the elementary level. We can now only collect 75 per cent rather than 80 per cent at the primary level and 89 per cent at the secondary level. It is not hard to calculate the major difference that that means in the overall costs of education to the local taxpayer or the cutbacks that must be made within the educational system itself and therefore the downgrading of the type of education that is provided to the students.

Then, fourth and perhaps the most significant, is the financial support to recognized

ordinary expenditures. This represents the basic portion of school board budgets and includes all salaries. Of course, there has been an eight per cent maximum increase placed on those at the secondary level. It means, in our area at least, that the expenditures on education itself will be reduced by eight per cent at the secondary level and two per cent at the elementary level, in order to make up for inflationary costs that are in between.

For each pupil in this province there is an average assessment of \$132,400 at the local level. In my area the assessment is \$58,227, just about 40 per cent of the average across the province. And this is prevalent right through northern Ontario.

With the provincial average being \$132,400, I will just read these figures: Nipissing, \$58,000; Parry Sound, \$66,000; Timmins, \$67,000; Metro Toronto, \$195,000; Windsor, \$146,000; Sudbury, \$84,000; and even Sault Ste. Marie, \$90,000. These are far below the provincial average. So you can see that this has had a direct effect on both the educational costs to the local taxpayer, as well as the type of education that will be provided in the coming months.

Based on a local tax cost of some \$258 per pupil—which is, in effect, what the increase was in our system—the tax required from the average homeowner would be \$88.62 more than was paid last year. If that same increased cost was applied in, say, Metro Toronto, the cost would be \$26.43 for the average homeowner. So you can see that the average homeowner in northern Ontario, just to keep pace, has to pay three times as much in increased cost.

I do believe that from these last remarks in regard to education, and the other remarks that I made insofar as the economic situation in northern Ontario is concerned, that it is obvious that there are two standards in this province—one for certain regions of the province and another, much better standard for the most populated areas. I am sure that the Speaker would certainly recognize those facts and would be in full agreement with me.

With those words, Mr. Speaker, I will finish my remarks and thank the House for its indulgence.

Mr. Germa: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to contribute a few remarks to this budget debate. But first of all I should like to congratulate you personally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on your elevation. I think you have done a reasonably good job up to this point in time. Now you are in the chair, I hope you protect me from the interventions which might come from the members around here.

I would also like to congratulate the Speaker. I think he has brought the House into better control during this session than it had been in the past, and I know he works very diligently at it. With your assistance, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that he has had some reasonable success, despite the fact there are certain improvements that can be made all the time.

The present government, since the September, 1971, election, has been in a continual state of decline, and they appear absolutely frustrated. They seem not to know what they are doing. They are making errors on almost a daily basis. I think they are a little rattled over the events that have happened. For the first time in 33 years they have had to take into consideration other people's opinions. They are not well trained in that and consequently they are prone to making errors and over-extending the power which the legislation grants to the province.

I am sure they are enjoying their popularity, with these massive demonstrations which come to Queen's Park to greet the Premier (Mr. Davis) almost on a weekly basis, the latest one being the Ontario Federation of Labour. I think there were some 25,000 people who came all the way to Queen's Park to greet the Premier and his misguided group of cabinet ministers. Of course, we had earlier in the winter about 30,000 school teachers, who are not prone to voice their opinions publicly.

This government has managed to antagonize almost every sector of the community since the September, 1971, election. They show no interest in changing, or do not seem to have the facility to change, their course. I think what we are looking at right now, Mr. Speaker, is the decline of a once honourable party. I think they are going to be eliminated from the political scene, as far as power is concerned, and they remind me of the—

Mr. Warner: They are on their way out.

Mr. Germa: They remind me of the disappearance of the dinosaur. I understand the dinosaur died because his head was too small for his body. He had a huge body and he didn't have any thought process and consequently he couldn't adapt to change so he disappeared from the face of the earth. I think that is precisely what is happening to this Conservative government.

Hon. B. Stephenson: He is still living in Sudbury.

Mr. Germa: They seem to be atrophied—

Mr. Wildman: Thanks to the Conservatives.

Mr. Germa: —as though they had arthritis in a certain position, and they seem not able to move from that particular stance that they have adopted.

Ontario has changed very much since the Second World War. The old gimmicks, the old window-dressing that this government used to use to win elections just doesn't go with the new population and the new attitudes of the Province of Ontario. I think a lot of the decline of the Conservative power is a result of large immigration into Ontario over the past 25 years. This government cannot adapt to that change in attitude and philosophy, and consequently they will have to go.

The New Democratic Party, as the official opposition, is learning as it goes along the way. What we are debating tonight, Mr. Speaker, is the amendment that the NDP proposed to the budget as presented by the government. On April 13, 1976, the leadoff speaker for the NDP introduced the following amendment, and I think it is good to remind the members of the House exactly what we are debating. Of course, in the interval, certain things have happened which seem to indicate that when the vote comes it will be of little consequence because the leader of the third party, I understand, has sent up the smoke signals. I think he said that it would have to be the worst budget since King Herod—I think that was the name he used—in order for him to vote against the government.

It amazes me. I listened with great intent to the last speaker, from Nipissing, who was speaking about things that I think I know something about, coming from the north-eastern part of the province as he does. It amazes me that he can stand here for one hour and 15 minutes and criticize the government on this presentation of the budget knowing full well that when the time comes he is going to vote to support this government. If that is not hypocrisy of the highest order, I don't know what is.

Mr. Warner: Shame.

Mr. Germa: This whole gang in the third party, who stand here criticizing this government, have already said that regardless of how bad it is, they are still going to support the government.

Mr. Warner: Coalition government.

Mr. Germa: Coalition government. It is not a minority, it is a coalition government.

Mr. Gaunt: Where were you last year? Where were you last fall?

Mr. Germa: The amendment which the New Democratic Party proposed encompasses all of those things that the Liberals have been criticizing in the budget.

Mr. Gaunt: Where were you last fall?
[10.15]

Mr. Germa: I think it would do us well if we were to read to the members of the House exactly what the New Democratic Party was talking about and they will see the things the last member spoke to are included in the amendment.

Mr. Wildman: He gave a very good speech.

Mr. Roy: Well, he knows the north as well as you guys.

Mr. Germa: I understand that and I gave him credit for knowing the north. But what I was criticizing was that he can stand here for one hour and 15 minutes and criticize this budget, knowing full well that he's going to support it in the long run, if he follows his leader—

Mr. Ferrier: You're going to support the Tories too, Albert.

Mr. Roy: You really want an election, eh?

Mr. Wildman: The sooner we get rid of them the better.

Mr. Germa: If the Conservatives have lost the power of the thought process, then the Liberals are so disorganized that there are no thoughts whatsoever coming from them that have any coincidence. If you listen to three Liberals speaking, you get three opinions.

Anyway, on April 13 the New Democratic Party moved the following amendment:

This House regrets the introduction of a budget responding only to the fiscal impact of a government which, having overborrowed and overspent during its four years in office, recorded an election-year deficit approaching \$2 billion—

An hon. member: You keep telling us we're not spending enough.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) take his own seat if he wishes to interject?

Mr. Germa: To continue:

And regrets the paralysis of the government when faced with 253,000 people unemployed and the passive acceptance of a continuing unacceptable rate of unemployment in excess of six per cent.

And regrets the most inequitable feature of the budget, the increased premiums for health care, which highlights the pre-occupation of this government with unfair and regressive taxes without considering existing and other alternative sources of revenue; and regrets the choice by the government of policies dictated by this impasse and paralysis which fail to create jobs and which cut back vital programmes in health, education, and social services, causing more unemployment, which force regional and other municipal governments and school boards to increase taxes on property;

And regrets the failure of the government to introduce programmes stabilizing the income of farmers, preserving land for agriculture, making available medical, dental and other essential social services within a basic economic framework in northern Ontario, particularly in unorganized municipalities, in any way comparable to southern Ontario, providing the incentives and opportunities which would stimulate the orderly economic development of eastern Ontario, protecting the health of people working in our industries, meeting the need for public transit in the regions, towns and cities, producing quality housing at reasonable prices, and reducing the dependence of our natural resource industries on foreign capital.

Mr. Roy: Have you got the kitchen sink in there too? That sounds like the Regina manifesto.

Mr. Germa: It's not a bad budget, except for the exceptions which are included in the amendment proposed by the official opposition. Those are the things we have been speaking to, and those are the things that the Liberal Party members speak to, but they do not have the intestinal fortitude to stand up on their back legs and oppose the government when the time comes.

Mr. Roy: Yes. Who's that?

Mr. Nixon: Remember when you voted with the Tories in favour of the anti-inflation programme? The CLC didn't like that very much.

Mr. Mackenzie: That's pretty weak, Bob.

Mr. Germa: As I stated earlier, I think the cabinet has panicked. They have been abusing their power, and the courts have already told them in what areas they have abused their power. It was the courts that told them that they do not have the power, under the Public Hospitals Act, to close those hospitals.

We gave them various other reasons why they shouldn't be carrying out this insanity, and yet the courts had to come along and dictate to them that they didn't have the power. The power has gone to their heads and they're making a mistake.

Mr. Nixon: The member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton) is back. Isn't that great?

Mr. Germa: The second setback the government has had in the courts was that a decision of the rent review board was overruled in the courts when a rent review officer allowed a hearing to proceed. And the government was informed of this. The Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) was informed. The Minister of Community and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) was informed. Yet instead of correcting the situation, they locked into their stubborn position. They had to go to court and the divisional court ruled that the hearing was illegal because the rent review officer had not complied with the Act in giving due notice to the tenant of a rent increase.

That also tells me that this government is not too interested in the rent review legislation function. They have an inborn bias in favour of landlords. It is indicated in that decision in which the courts, once again, had to come in and protect the people from their own government. When we get a situation like that, when the courts have to protect the people from the government, then we are in deep trouble.

Mr. Wildman: No, it was the hospital beds that were to protect—

Mr. Germa: We missed one item in our amendment I believe. That is that the government has failed to redistribute the income in Ontario. In fact—

Mr. Norton: Right on.

Mr. Germa: We see various steps taken by the government to treat the symptoms of inequitable distribution of income. We have studies going on inquiring into violence. We have various studies going on into why people are disillusioned and why we have increasing police costs. Yet the government doesn't seem to face the idea that if the income was a little better distributed in the Province of Ontario, a lot of this violence might go away.

I'm sure the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) is aware that the bank holdups in Metropolitan Toronto, up to this point in time this year, are double what the bank

holdups were in Metropolitan Toronto last year. There have been 26 stickups in Toronto already this year, which is exactly double what we had last year. Why doesn't the government set its sights on finding the reasons why people are forced to this extreme action? It's on account of the unemployment which it has failed to address itself to. It's on account of the inequitable distribution of the wealth, which it has failed to address itself to.

The study on income distribution of the Ontario Economic Council—Issues and Alternatives, 1976. The council issued a paper on social security. They zeroed in on distribution of wealth and I would like to quote just one sentence from page 3 of the Ontario Economic Council social security paper:

There have been no dramatic changes in the distribution of money income in either Canada or Ontario over the past eight or 10 years. The proportion of the money income going to the lowest fifth of Ontario's population stayed almost constant between 1965 and 1973.

I have the figures here for Ontario. The lowest quintile in 1965 had 6.8 per cent of the income. By 1973, they had shrunk to 6.4. So the bottom 20 per cent of our society has lost during that period—from 1965 to 1973.

The top quintile of our society in 1965 have 37.9 per cent of the income and they are still enjoying 37.3 per cent of the income. So this is exactly what this government has done over the period 1965-1973. It has done absolutely nothing to distribute the wealth of this province.

Mr. Bain: The party of the rich.

Mr. Germa: The top 20 per cent are still enjoying 37 per cent of the income.

Mr. Kennedy: You never had it so good.

Hon. B. Stephenson: You can't add and you can't subtract.

Mr. Germa: You ask me why there's violence in our streets; you ask me why police budgets have to rise. You don't have to ask me why.

Mr. Norton: We're not all going to wait for—

Mr. Bain: We don't have parliamentary assistants in the Treasury either, pulling in \$5,000. How much do you get as a parliamentary assistant?

Mr. Warner: Talk about lawyers' salaries.

Mr. Roy: Can I ask you why there is violence in the streets?

Mr. Germa: Poverty causes violence and the more you press the bottom 20 per cent, the more policemen you're going to have to hire.

Mr. Norton: That's a very simplistic statement. Now would you prove it?

Mr. Bain: It's a very simple statement. Study the Thirties.

Mr. Germa: It's very simple. Go to Chicago and take a look.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Sudbury has the floor.

Mr. Germa: Those are not the things I wanted to deal with. I wanted to deal with northeastern Ontario, where everything I have said that applies across the province is magnified and exaggerated in the northeastern part of the province where this government has failed miserably—

Mr. Norton: Crime is not an issue in northeastern Ontario.

Mr. Ferrier: That is not necessarily so in southern Ontario.

Mr. Germa: —to deal with any of the problems facing northern Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Germa: The most miserable record of any government in this great country of ours is the way this government has treated the northern part of the province.

Mr. Bain: They don't even know where the north is.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member find this an appropriate place to adjourn the debate?

Mr. Germa: I believe this is a natural break in my discourse, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Germa moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Before moving the adjournment of the House, I would advise our colleagues that on Thursday we will continue with the estimates of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and, if and when those estimates should be completed, we will continue on that day with the estimates of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

Hon. Mr. Meen moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

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Thursday, May 27, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: I am very pleased to introduce to the House this afternoon an honoured guest in our gallery, in the person of the Hon. John Brocklebank, who is the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Statements by the ministry.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING COUNCIL

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Mr. Speaker, on April 20, 1976, I informed the House of the establishment of an Industrial Training Council to advise me on industrial and trades training matters.

I hope the members will recall that the primary concern of the council will be to examine training in and for the labour market. The council will review in depth the alternative and complementary elements of industrial training, consider their appropriateness, and recommend to me steps this government might take to encourage the growth and development of industrial training in Ontario.

I am convinced that the council, with its focus on an increasingly important field, has a major role to play in shaping the future of post-secondary education and training in this province.

Today, I am pleased to announce the membership of the Industrial Training Council.

Mr. Douglas N. Omand has been appointed chairman of the council. As executive coordinator of special projects for the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Omand has been responsible for facilitating industry, labour and government co-operation in new industrial developments. From 1969 to 1974, he served as director-general of the Ontario Science Centre and guided its first five years of operation.

In addition to the chairman, 18 people have been appointed to the council. Rather than read the list of members and their occupations to the House, I am distributing the list to all MPPs this afternoon.

The members of the council collectively have a wide and varied working knowledge of all aspects of industry, the labour movement, business and education in Ontario, and indeed reside in all parts of this province. I should emphasize my hope that they will do more than represent a particular constituency, or concern themselves only with certain aspects of the council's work. All members have much to offer and I'm counting on them to bring their knowledge and experience to bear on the whole spectrum of industrial training concerns in this province.

I look to the council to provide sound, thoughtful, practical and imaginative advice to help us meet the challenges we now face in training in business and in industry. In view of the high calibre of its membership, I'm sure the council is equal to its task.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I recall, I believe, the Premier (Mr. Davis) telling me previously that the Minister of Labour was in charge of manpower policy. Is that correct? I wonder, then, if the Minister of Labour could inform the House what new initiatives the government intends to take following the indications made by the Premier some three or four months ago that in the event the unemployment situation in Ontario did not improve, he and his government would be moving to create new jobs for students this coming summer. What's being done?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, as I'm sure the hon member knows, not only has Experience 76 been taking place this year but in addition to that 1,000 extra jobs have been created within governmental areas for students. That will, hopefully, take into account some of the numbers of students who are presently without potential employment for the summer months. It certainly is not going to account for all of them.

There has been a fair amount of public information sent out through the media encouraging employers within private industry

as well to employ students during the summer with certain support from government. The support has been primarily that of media publication rather than any specific financial support for the industries that might be employing those students.

member is concerned about, that, at the

If it is simply the student programme the moment, is the limit I can announce to him.

Mr. Deans: A supplementary question: Given that those initiatives were undertaken some time ago and the Premier acknowledged the likelihood of major unemployment problems in the student sector this coming summer, does the minister now have any other programmes she might be prepared to put into place in the next four to six weeks in order that those people who have to pay the higher tuition fees imposed by the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Parrott) might be able to earn the money in order to do so?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, as I'm sure the hon. member knows, those who are going to be paying higher tuition fees are those who are probably not likely to be employed within the Province of Ontario during the summer. There are other matters which we are considering at the moment, which I am not at liberty at this point to announce to this House.

Mr. Sweeney: A supplementary: To what extent has this minister and the federal Minister of Labour been able to discuss this particular situation and come to any further conclusions?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, we have had discussions with federal counterparts—not the Minister of Labour but the Minister of Manpower and Immigration—and we have had several very fruitful discussions I think in this area.

Mr. Bounsall: Is the minister recommending that some of the very good Experience programmes of other summers which were dropped for this year's summer programme be reinstituted—such as the one in her own ministry dealing with construction inspection? It was one which proved to be very useful but was not included in this year's Experience programme.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, that specific programme has not been reinstituted but other programmes have been.

Mr. Bounsall: It is a shame.

Mr. B. Newman: Would the minister speak with her colleague, the Minister of Natural Resources, in an attempt to implement or re-implement a programme concerning water safety, that is, lifeguards at provincial parks?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, if I may comment on that particular item, I believe I have notified members of our own caucus and members of the opposition that in a review of our restraint programme as it applied to provincial parks, in the 21 parks that have a beach patrol—and I'd like to correct the hon. member, it is not a life-saving operation; it is a beach patrol—they will be in operation this year.

ACCESS TO EXPLOSIVES

Mr. Deans: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. Can the minister recall communications that he had with Mr. Lambert from the United Steelworkers of America, Local 6500, in Sudbury in 1974, and also with my colleagues, the member for Sudbury (Mr. Germa) and the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), with regard to the easy access to explosives that miners had and the death that had occurred in 1974? Given that we've had yet another death in Sudbury from the same source, is the minister now prepared to change the Mining Act to make it more difficult for people to walk out of the mines with dynamite or explosives, in an attempt to cut down on this kind of problem even though we all recognize it may not eliminate it entirely?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: As I am sure the hon. member is aware, we now have a very active committee, made up of members of my ministry, members of the industry and members of the labour movement, who are looking at a revision of the Mining Act, and certainly this is one area they will look at and I will ask them to look at it very carefully.

I would point out to the hon. member that the obtaining of explosives is very easy in this particular province. In other words, anyone who wishes a piece of high explosive, dynamite as an example, may go down to a store that sells this particular commodity and purchase same. The only difference in this particular case is that it was stolen; it was picked up without charge. So while we may enforce certain regulations, and we certainly intend to do so, there is always that ability of the individual who wishes to go this direction to obtain the explosives of this quantity.

Mr. Deans: A supplementary question: Surely the minister would agree it is less

likely that someone would go in and buy the explosives than that he would simply pick them up and take them with him? I draw his attention to the final paragraph in the letter of 1974, in which Mr. Lambert said quite clearly:

I strongly suggest the Mining Act be changed, that all powder magazines be locked, that one man be placed in charge of every magazine and that a record of all powder be kept. This must be done before there is a tragedy here in Sudbury.

That was 1974. The minister answered just as he did today.

Mr. Speaker: Is there a question, please?

Mr. Deans: Does the minister not feel it would make sense to lock up the powder and to have a powder man in charge?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I believe the accident to which the member is referring did not occur in the mine itself. The explosive was stolen from the mine—

An hon. member: That doesn't really matter.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —as it was in my own home town of Kenora, where we saw an individual arm himself with sticks of dynamite that were either purchased or stolen and blow up himself, along with injuring certain other people. With all the rules and regulations we could enforce and apply, I don't know how to stop this kind of incident.

Mr. Kerrio: Given the fact that most powder is kept in powder magazines and that the Act says the powder itself on construction sites and even in mines is supposed to be kept under lock and key, is it perhaps not a fact that the Act is not being enforced rather than that the ease of acquiring it exists?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: If there are indications given to me that the Act is not being enforced as it is now written, then certainly I'm prepared to look into all aspects of it. But, as I indicated earlier, there may be improvements that we can bring to the Mining Act—

Mr. Martel: You've been working two years on that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —and the committee established and now looking into the various

aspects of the Act, I hope, will come forward with some very positive suggestions.

Mr. Germa: Supplementary: How is it that on construction sites explosives are very well regulated, whereas in the mines we take this lackadaisical attitude toward explosives?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I don't think it's a lackadaisical attitude. I'm sure the hon. member is very much aware of the careful attitude and the careful scrutiny that the mines, and even the men, employ with regard to explosives.

[2:15]

PAYMENTS TO WELFARE RECIPIENTS

Mr. Deans: I have a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services. Has the ministry been able to do an evaluation of the impact of the proposed changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act by the federal government with respect to the additional costs which will have to be borne by many municipalities on their welfare budgets?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If the hon. member is referring to recent pronouncements in the federal budget with regard to weeks of employment prior to qualification, the answer is no. That has just been announced. Any impact that that may have has not been predicted in terms of caseloads, either in general welfare assistance or family benefits. However, I may say we were encouraged in connection with the decline in the caseloads throughout Ontario in terms of persons on general welfare assistance and family benefits since the tightening up of the eligibility standards.

Mr. Deans: I have a supplementary question. First of all, does the minister agree that there will be an additional caseload and that caseload will require municipalities to expend far more funds than they are currently expending?

Secondly, has the minister carried on any discussion with the Unemployment Insurance Commission in order to try to cut down on the inordinately long waiting period that people have to wait to get unemployment insurance, even when they do qualify?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In regard to the first question, I don't think it necessarily follows that there will be any impact on the caseloads, either in general welfare assistance or in family benefits. That's something that we will have to assess.

Secondly, in terms of the waiting period, that's something under the jurisdiction of the Unemployment Insurance Commission. We do accommodate those persons while they are waiting for their first cheque from the Unemployment Insurance Commission through the municipalities in terms of general welfare assistance.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary: Does the minister not see that in those industries of high seasonal employment and unemployment, and in those areas such as eastern and northern Ontario where similar conditions prevail, many workers will not be able to accumulate the necessary number of weeks, their families will therefore be forced on to general welfare assistance and that will result in an increased load to the ministry in the municipalities throughout Ontario, but especially in those areas that I mentioned such as the north?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That conclusion doesn't necessarily follow. There are types of occupations, such as commercial fishermen, for example, who are unemployed for a part of the year. Those persons also take other types of employment when their usual employment terminates, so it is difficult to predict just what the impact will be, if any.

Mr. Deans: I have a question of the Solicitor General in his capacity as the Provincial Secretary for Justice.

Mr. Reid: That's more than four questions.

Mr. Deans: This is actually the fourth one.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will place his question.

SENTENCING OF NON-CITIZEN

Mr. Deans: Does the minister consider it to be justice equal to all when a judge says in a court of law that if the offence "had occurred to a person who was a citizen of Canada, it would be a jail term without doubt on this charge," but because the person was not a citizen and he would suffer deportation he would simply impose a fine?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I think that question should be passed to the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) as he's the one who is in charge of the administration of justice. Just in a blank statement of that nature, to ask me whether I believe it sounds like justice or not, no, it certainly doesn't sound like justice, but that's without knowing the circumstances surrounding it.

Mr. Deans: A supplementary question: Will the minister then, in his capacity as the policy minister, look into that case that was heard by Judge William Sharpe in Hamilton with regard to a theft? It was reported in yesterday's Spectator, which said just that.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I will be glad to pass it to my colleague, sir.

LABOUR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Labour: Can the minister advise whether members of her department are looking into the programme of works councils which is in place in West Germany and has been referred to recently by the federal deputy minister, Thomas Eberlee, as a way in which greater participation in the operation of companies and production of their products would be helpful and also as a way of cutting back on possible labour disputes, which obviously exact a high toll of production within the province?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I think I have stated on at least two occasions in this House that the Ministry of Labour is exploring methods of increasing the co-operative participation of both employers and employees in many work situations, looking at examples that come from various other jurisdictions—West Germany being one of them, Japan another, Sweden another and other countries as well—with the hope that, although we do not intend to import their solutions to our problems, perhaps through some modification of some of the programmes that seem to be successful in other jurisdictions, we can improve the labour-management atmosphere in a way that will be conducive to a minimization of the conflict which seems to have been increasing in the past few years.

Mr. Nixon: Wish we could get a guy like Eberlee to work for us.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Mr. Breithaupt: A question of the Minister of Health, with respect to the proposed mosquito spraying programme for this summer: Is the minister aware of a comment by Russel Wright, a member of his advisory group that goes to the effect "now all of a sudden we are running around in complete panic" and that the programme being suggested is going to be excessive for the needs of spraying within the province? Does the minister

have any information he can give to the House on that comment?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I think there has been a lot of public concern about the possibility of encephalitis this summer, and this has caused a good deal of pressure on health authorities to do something. I think this gentleman—I believe he was from Guelph, as I recall—pointed out that in his opinion the risks were minimal, that only one variety of mosquito was likely to be the carrier, and in his opinion at least—I think he was speaking off the record—he didn't think there was a chance of an outbreak this summer.

However, since we are usually blamed for not taking any action in a preventive way, I think we should not really be criticized for making available to the health units of the Province of Ontario and to the communities of the Province of Ontario the larvicides that we have, so that we would prevent the growth of mosquitoes before the season begins. Perhaps those areas of Ontario south and west of a line between Metro and Sarnia should be protected, even if the probability is very low.

Mr. Reid: Supplementary: Has the minister given any directions to his ministry or the health councils that they should be educating people as to the effect of the Abate or Flit, whichever is used, and the fact that this may be toxic, particularly to young children, and the steps that should be taken if, in fact, the children are affected by it?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I can't answer that affirmatively or not. I know one of the risks of having a programme like this in Ontario on a crash basis is that a number of people not normally handling this kind of chemical will be involved. That has been stated. In the States, where the problem is one of long standing, there are many more people trained in the use of these fairly toxic chemicals.

There is the other side of the issue: We have an awful lot of people who need to be educated that mosquitoes north of Toronto won't bite and give them encephalitis, so it is safe to go to areas like Rainy River.

Mr. Reid: Or Muskoka or Bracebridge.

Mr. Gaunt: Supplementary: What steps is the minister taking to see that the spraying programme does not become ineffective or environmentally damaging?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I understood that the chemicals chosen were biodegradable and therefore should not have a permanent effect upon the environment, such

as DDT has had in the past. I am sure there are experts who can tell me whether I am right or wrong, but this is my understanding. I think that is one of the key points in this.

Mr. Reid: They are toxic to human beings.

Mr. B. Newman: I'm sure the minister is aware of the concern of the residents in the Province of New Brunswick and that they are attempting to associate Reyes syndrome with the spraying. Can we in the Province of Ontario be assured that the spraying the minister will be undertaking will not eventually end up in an increase in the cases of Reyes syndrome?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to be able to assure the member on any point but I'd be foolish to give an assurance I couldn't back up. All I can say is there is a basic difference in the kinds of spraying being performed. If one is killing the larvae, one is adding these chemicals directly to pools of water, not using aircraft, such as Windsor used, I believe, last fall. In that case they were using an insecticide for already matured mosquitoes. Our programme is only financing a larvicide directly applied to water to catch the larvae before they become mosquitoes.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES REPORT

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services: Is the minister now able to confirm that the report of the interministerial task force on group homes and the report on Viking Houses commissioned last summer, which recommends licensing of all group homes, are two distinct, separate reports?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, Mr. Speaker, I'm not but I'd be happy to be enlightened by the hon. member opposite. As I expressed earlier, the interministerial committee is dealing with the whole field of residential care. The member may be referring to a letter or some other type of document but I don't think he's referring to the report which is being currently studied by the interministerial committee.

Mr. Breithaupt: Would the minister now table this report on the Viking situation and advise the House if the position of the assistant deputy minister that new legislation is being drafted is correct or not?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I say, Mr. Speaker, in terms of new legislation, certainly we are

contemplating the fusion of the statutes which are applicable—the Children's Institutions Act, for example, and the Children's Boarding Homes Act. Those are the current limits to the consideration by my ministry, and that has not as yet been done. If that is going to be presented to the House it will take the usual course.

In terms of the so-called Viking Houses report, I must confess I'm not familiar with that. It's been my understanding that that type of residence is included in the interministerial study of residential care. In terms of Viking Houses, we utilize probably about 15 homes in Ontario. They accommodate about 63 people; five of them are licensed, those which have five or more residents, but that's all we're talking about in terms of my ministry.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health has the answer to a question asked previously.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, since the person asking the question is not present, may I now defer it?

LAYOFFS OF TEACHERS AT TRAINING SCHOOLS

Ms. Sandeman: I have a question for the Minister of Correctional Services. Could the minister advise why it is that his ministry seems to be trying to renege on the commitment made with the teachers in Correctional Services by not fulfilling the conditions of the agreement signed by the Provincial Schools Authority and the teachers in the Provincial Schools Authority?

Hon. J. R. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I'll take that as notice.

Ms. Sandeman: Perhaps if the minister is not really aware of the background of that question, I could ask him: (1) why it is that Mr. Bill Tilden, the assistant adviser for education in his ministry, said last Friday that the Ministry of Correctional Services is going to fight the implementation of the contract signed by the Provincial Schools Authority with the Federation of Provincial Schools Authority Teachers; (2) why it is that the teachers in the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health have received the \$500 retroactive pay which was part of the agreement and the teachers in Correctional Services have not received that amount?

[2:30]

Hon. J. R. Smith: I regret that I'm unaware of these circumstances or statements. I'll give a full report.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary: While the minister is getting the information, could he find out further why the ministry refused to let the teachers' representative, the duly certified representative of the teachers, ask the meeting on Friday about the Grandview transfers? Could he investigate that?

ESSEX PACKERS

Mr. Riddell: A question to the Minister of Labour: In view of the fact that it now appears that her colleague sitting next to her, the Minister of Correctional Services, inadvertently misled the House when he said the layoff at Essex Packers was for the reason of taking inventory—which reason is now seen to be incorrect as there was no inventory to take other than a small quantity of hams in storage in the United States and \$100,000 worth of supplies in the Hamilton plants which had already been accounted for—and in view of the fact that the real reason for the layoff is Better Beef's attempt to circumvent the provisions of the Employment Standards Act, which requires that a lessee deemed to be a successor corporation is legally liable for severance pay, would the minister, firstly, investigate this manoeuvre on the part of Better Beef to ensure that the employees who were laid off will receive severance pay? Secondly, will she confer with her colleague, the Minister of Correctional Services, to determine whether this action on the part of Better Beef could not be considered to be sufficient grounds for terminating the assignment of the lease to DeJonge Brothers for the Guelph abattoir?

Hon. B. Stephenson: In response to that passionate dissertation I can only say yes and yes.

GRACE HOSPITAL

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

Mr. Makarchuk: He is over here now.

Mr. Davidson: Resign.

Mr. Grossman: I do appreciate the reception. I have a question for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Reid: Do you trust him any more than you trusted the last one?

Mr. Grossman: It's different. Last time it was the acting minister. Could the minister update us on the reprieve or extension given to Grace Hospital in Toronto?

Mr. Davidson: Resign.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I don't think it was a reprieve, in all honesty. It was a question of where that hospital was going to relocate; whether it was going to go to the original site in Scarborough or whether it was going to go elsewhere. Since I've returned to work, I haven't been told any more than I knew the last time the hon. member and I spoke. But I have seen correspondence between our ministry and, I believe, the borough of Scarborough that basically said the site in Scarborough will be needed for a hospital—roughly 1980 was the date I saw.

Mr. Grossman: Supplementary: Has the budget for that hospital been at all reduced for the current year?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I will find that out.

RADIOACTIVITY AT PORT HOPE

Mr. Moffatt: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. In view of the recent announcements by the mayor of Port Hope, by Eldorado, by the Atomic Energy Control Board and by the town of Newcastle that the whole situation in Port Hope is a total mess and doesn't seem to be getting any closer to a solution, is the minister at this time prepared to intervene on behalf of the citizens, not only of the Port Hope area but of all the citizens of Ontario, finally to get that situation in Port Hope cleaned up?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I think we are making headway, although some of the press reports don't indicate that. The committee that I mentioned to the hon. member—

Mr. Reid: Just like the Dow suit.

Mr. Singer: The polluter will pay. How about that?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —in our recent debate a week or so ago has been meeting regularly. We now have an estimate of the cost of cleaning up most of those sites. It will be something over \$1.5 million and probably about \$1.75 million. The big problem is to find a suitable site. There doesn't seem to be any argument about who's responsible for moving the radioactive waste or the fact that it has to be moved. The question, the problem, is to find a suitable site and as I indi-

cated to the hon. member no municipality wants Port Hope's waste.

Mr. Peterson: That's funny, isn't it?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: No, it isn't funny. It is probably very understandable. The terms of reference of the committee are such that it is not necessary that the waste will stay in Ontario. It is the matter of finding a suitable site anywhere in this country to dispose of that waste.

The committee has made various suggestions to the Atomic Energy Control Board, to Mr. Gillespie and his officials as well as to Eldorado. One or two of the suggestions involved abandoned military sites where there are barracks and abandoned airstrips which were used during the last war. There's a number of sites with acreages of something like 500 or 600 acres which the ministry feels would make suitable sites.

To say nothing is being done is not right. The matter is being continuously looked at by this committee. It is involving, as I said before, at least three ministries of the federal government, as well as two ministries of the provincial government, as well as the company. I am hoping that the deadline of June 1, which was set by the committee, will be met and there will be some realistic suggestions as to disposal sites.

Mr. Moffatt: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if he can assure this House that if Eldorado and the Atomic Energy Control Board continue to drag their feet on this in the hope of coercing some other municipality into taking that waste material, he will intervene in the situation and designate an area where that material must go under controls exerted by his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Really, the finding and designation of a site, we feel, is the responsibility of the Atomic Energy Control Board as well as of the company. Certainly, as we have indicated before, we have told the federal people we will assist them in finding a site. As far as approving a site is concerned from all environmental aspects that will take place but the responsibility for disposing of this radioactive waste rests, as the member knows, with the company and with the federal authorities. For us to take on the job of designating a site means that we are limited to the Province of Ontario and I don't think that should be so.

Mr. Speaker: A final supplementary, the member for London Centre.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, to prove his good faith to the people of Port Hope and to the province, is the minister prepared to set a date right now by which time this entire cleanup will have been completed?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to say how long it will take to complete the cleanup. It could go on for three or four months; it could go on for six months. It involves a great deal of material.

Mr. Reid: Centuries, maybe.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: It depends on how far it has to be hauled and the method used to haul it; depending, of course, on where the ultimate site will be.

Mr. Reid: Like the Dow suit.

Mrs. Campbell: Haul it to Dow Chemical property.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: To try to give a guess now would not be honest nor would it probably be accurate.

Mr. Bullbrook: The answer could have been no.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I am hoping, as far as starting the cleanup is concerned, that some time before the end of June that operation will commence.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It is not his responsibility.

Mr. Breithaupt: A supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: No, that was the final supplementary. A new question?

Mr. Breithaupt: No, a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: I am asking for a new question now.

FUNDING BY MANAGEMENT BOARD ORDERS

Mr. Shore: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Premier (Mr. Davis), I would like to direct this question to the Chairman of the Management Board, if I might. In view of the fact that the all-party accounts committee of the Nova Scotia Legislature voted to limit the amount of money the government can spend without legislative approval, will this government make a commitment to take action to limit the potential featherbedding of estimates which can arise through funding by Management Board orders?

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I didn't catch the first part of the hon. member's question because there was another conversation going on over here. Could he repeat it, please?

Mr. Shore: All I was trying to do was give an example. The real essence of the question was in view of the possible featherbedding which can arise through Management Board orders, would the minister advise us if he is prepared to limit the amount of Management Board order estimates which go through?

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, first of all I would say that any of my colleagues would agree that the last thing that is likely to happen as a result of Management Board orders is any featherbedding.

Mr. Nixon: I am sure your colleagues would agree.

Hon. Mr. Auld: As recently as yesterday morning I would think, Mr. Speaker. As far as the question of limiting Management Board orders is concerned, as the hon. member is aware, the select committee has asked the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) and myself to produce a system of notification to this House of Management Board orders and we are expecting to make a presentation to the select committee very shortly.

Mr. Reid: It has been a bone of contention to the public accounts committee for years.

Hon. Mr. Auld: I could tell the hon. member, for instance, that in terms of the number of Management Board orders, I don't think that's his real point. The real question is the amount of money involved in Management Board orders as compared to the amount of money that might be involved, say, in supplementary estimates, and this again is something that will be part of the presentation and discussion with the select committee very shortly.

Mr. Shore: Supplementary: In view of the answer, will that report be coming forward very shortly, or can we assume and have the minister's assurance that so long as the House is in session he will bring these estimates forward?

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, I would expect, depending on the volume of business and when the select committee is prepared to meet with us, that it could be as soon as the week after next. I believe the select committee normally meets on Tuesdays, and I think we are prepared to meet any time after the middle of next week.

Mr. Reid: Would the minister not agree that the whole concept is one of accountability to the Legislature for funds spent under Management Board orders and special warrants, and in fact successive public accounts committees have recommended that the government brings special warrants and Management Board orders into the Legislature for discussion and accountability to the Legislature?

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the recommendations of the public accounts committee, and I don't want to be accused of taking a lot of the time of the House this afternoon to get into a debate, in effect, or make a long statement about the policy. I would suggest to him, however, that one of the problems is that Management Board orders are not issued sort of one or two a week. In fact, as I recall, I made a statement in my estimates about Management Board orders and indicated the fact that the first Management Board order in the last fiscal year was not issued until I believe the middle of September. The majority of Management Board orders are not made until we are sure of the actual amount of expenditure, which would be in—

Mr. Reid: But there is no accountability to this House.

Hon. Mr. Auld: —May or March or April, and these are some of the matters that we are going to be discussing with the select committee.

LAYOFF OF CGE WORKERS

Mr. Lupusella: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that on April 16, 1976—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure whether we have the attention of the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Lupusella: In view of the fact that on April 6, 1976, a letter was sent to the Minister of Labour from the executive board and the stewards' council of local 507, representing the laid-off hourly-rated employees at Davenport works of the Canadian General Electric Co. Ltd., can the minister table in the House what kind of action the Minister of Labour has taken with regard to the problem raised by an indefinite layoff by the company, which it is now claiming is a temporary layoff but no date is set for the return?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I think that perhaps I should get the details of this from Instant Hansard and will respond when I have that information.

Mr. Lupusella: Supplementary: Can the minister also tell the House why 300 employees who have been laid off for an indefinite period of time by the Canadian General Electric Co. Ltd. were not advised of a date when they could expect to return to work? Does it not appear to the minister that the company is simply avoiding its responsibilities and obligations under this legislation by not following section 8, subsection 3, of the Employment Standards Act, which reads that notice of indefinite layoff—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. minister can read the section.

Mr. Lupusella: I would like to have an answer.

Mr. Nixon: The answer is yes and yes.

Mr. Speaker: It is not necessary to read an Act, either, at the moment.
[2:45]

Mr. Martel: He's not reading, he's paraphrasing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the hon. member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Lupusella: Can the minister respond to that?

Mr. Speaker: Is there an answer?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I will most certainly have the answer to this question when I see what the details are, which I am sorry I really didn't catch.

SCHOOL FACILITIES IN YORK

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Education. Will the minister give some idea of when he intends to fulfil his commitment to the new and rapidly growing community of German Mills, in the town of Markham, to provide the educational facilities, including schools, that are sorely lacking in that community?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to look into this matter. I'm sure we've had meetings with the York county board and we've talked about their capital budget and provision for facilities. As my friend knows, there is not a surplus of funds for school

building. There are funds available for areas where housing starts necessitate accommodation; even these are limited, but they are there. We've had meetings with the York county board, and I'll be happy to review my files on that and see where that particular matter stands and let him know.

REVERSAL OF OMB DECISION

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Revenue, in his capacity as chairman of the cabinet committee on legislation: Can he share with the House the additional information that must have been available to him that led him to recommend to cabinet the reversal of the OMB decision on the Towland-Hewitson asphalt plant in Thunder Bay? Is he willing to table the documents and the minutes of that section of the cabinet meeting?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, the deliberations of the legislation committee are simply those by way of discussions of the material that comes forward in the petition, and a review of the order of the Municipal Board in this instance, followed by a recommendation by my committee to my cabinet colleagues. The decision in this case, for reversal of the board's order, was a cabinet decision and it is customary that we do not give the reasons behind our decisions. It's obvious that we considered that the board was mistaken. Only in a very limited number of cases do we reverse, alter, vary or in any way tamper with a Municipal Board order, but in this case we considered that they were wrong, that they did not have all the facts before them and that it was appropriate that the board order should be varied, as the technical term goes.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary: Is the minister willing to talk to the Chairman of Cabinet to make that additional information available publicly? Why was the board mistaken and why, as he so rightly points out, when the cabinet so rarely overturns an OMB decision, did it overturn this one when the plant had been operating illegally for two years, and why was the citizens' group involved not notified of the additional material, which Ashland Oil or Towland-Hewitson must have given him, so that they could respond to that and the cabinet could have made a rational decision?

Hon. Mr. Meen: The parties to the petition were represented by counsel. Counsel on both sides were familiar with the exchange of

material that was received and I don't think it's appropriate at all to say that they are not familiar with the facts; I believe that they are familiar with the facts. But, to answer the first question last, I am not prepared to table any documentation. The material which was provided to us on which cabinet acted, I believe, is already available to the parties through their counsel.

DEVELOPMENT OF JUNIOR MINES

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. Can the minister indicate to the House how he feels about Ontario Securities Commission policy No. 302, dealing with the development of junior mines in the Province of Ontario? Does he think that in fact this policy will kill the junior mining industry in the Province of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I can speak personally on that particular matter—and I'll follow up with a further formal comment—in that I've always felt there should be more risk capital, particularly as it relates to the junior mining companies. I have said on many occasions in northern Ontario—and indeed here in southern Ontario—that the provisions of the Ontario Securities Commission should be sufficiently flexible to allow those individuals who want to, to invest a certain amount of risk capital—provided, of course, they are made fully aware of the risk involved, and provided a certain amount of those funds finds its way back into northern Ontario to be ploughed into the ground where it is supposed to be. That's a personal comment, and one I adhere to very strongly.

In connection with the member's direct question as to the regulation of the OSC, I am sure the hon. member is aware that a committee has been established under the chairmanship of my deputy minister, Dr. Keith Reynolds, who has brought together a committee of the industry.

Mr. Reid: Have they met?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, they have. They have met on a couple of occasions. They are monitoring the effects of that particular regulation and I believe they are to report to myself and the Premier (Mr. Davis) early this summer as to the effects it is having on the junior mining companies, and from there we will take the next step.

Mr. Reid: One short supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Motions.

Introduction of bills.

POWER CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Sargent moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Sargent: The purpose of this bill is to establish a minimum basic-user charge for electric power supplied to residential premises; discounts and lower rates for bulk users would be eliminated—and it should pass.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH ACT

Mr. Martel moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act for the Promotion and Protection of the Health and Safety of Persons Engaged in Occupations.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to consolidate matters dealing with the health and safety of workers and place them under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labour. The bill also establishes a department to be part of the Ministry of Labour which is responsible for research and setting and enforcing standards to protect workers.

HANDCUFF SALES PREVENTION ACT

Mr. Grossman moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to prohibit the Sale of Handcuffs.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: No explanation?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before we proceed to the orders of the day, we missed a couple of reports. May we return to that order of business?

Agreed.

ONTARIO PERSPECTIVE ON BANK ACT REVIEW

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I am tabling this afternoon for the information of the members

a paper entitled, "The Bank Act Review, A Preliminary Ontario Perspective." This paper has been forwarded today to the federal Minister of Finance. Members are aware the Bank Act is currently undergoing its decennial review. Any modifications to the legislation which come out of the process could have far-reaching effects on our whole financial structure and economic developments in the years ahead. The Ontario government believes the existing system has served Canada's needs relatively well and that unnecessary tinkering with its basically strong structure should be avoided, particularly when we face more immediate economic priorities. Consequently, I have urged the Minister of Finance to delay for at least five years any broad reorganization of our financial structure. At the same time, we have made some constructive suggestions for improving the financial system.

Mr. Bullbrook: It is the greatest economic club in the world, Canada's chartered banks.

Mr. Edighoffer from the standing miscellaneous estimates committee presented the committee's report which was read as follows and adopted:

Your committee begs to report the following resolution:

Resolved: That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Government Services be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977:

Ministry of Government Services

Ministry administration	\$ 3,842,500
Provision of accommodation	\$176,357,000
Upkeep of accommodation	\$ 50,739,000
Supply and services	\$ 59,575,000
Management and information services	\$ 796,000

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch: Before the orders of the day, I'd like to table the answers to questions 17, 69, 80, 84 and 93 standing on the notice paper. (See appendix, page 2686).

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The 15th order, House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
(concluded)

On vote 2601:

Mr. Chairman: We're on vote 2601, main office, policy planning and common services. The hon. member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

Mr. Warner: I'll wait for a minute while the minister is getting rearranged. While the House leader is still here, do I take it, although the Chair may not be privy to arrangements made ahead of time, that we are looking toward 5:30 as opposed to 6 o'clock and therefore the Culture and Recreation estimates will be on at 8, or should they start at 5:30?

Hon. Mr. Welch: If that is generally agreed, that would be fine. These estimates would wind up at 6 and we'd start a new set at 8. Is that generally agreed?

Mr. Chairman: Is that understood by the committee?

Hon. Mr. Welch: That would mean that Culture and Recreation would start tonight at 8 sharp.

Mr. Peterson: Are you going to be here?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I plan to be here.
[3:00]

Mr. Warner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman; a special thanks. I recall last week we broke off the discussion on the point of leadership and the opportunities available to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Parrott) to show some leadership in an effort to make up for the past. I don't think we need to go into the history at this point but suffice it to say the minister has the capacity and ability to show leadership. In that regard, I would think it very possible for the minister to show some leadership as it is needed in the area of the decision-making process within the colleges and universities.

I think it's fairly evident—it certainly must be evident to the minister at this point—as to what kinds of problems can arise when an institution is not properly represented in the decision-making process. We have the unfortunate experience of Algoma University College. The minister is probably aware of the item in this morning's Globe and Mail which indicates that the board of governors and the executive committee will be officially dissolved early next month.

They're one and the same group except for a handful of extra individuals. They managed to appoint themselves. That whole mess, I take it, has stemmed from the problem of not having a proper forum to arrive at a board of governors. The mess is going to be cleaned up, I take it, through a public inquiry which was pushed and prodded for. The government had to relent, finally, and give us a public inquiry up there. The mess will be cleared up. Some of it is coming out bit by bit.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission hearing was successful on the side of the faculty members. That's just another part of the difficulty up there. The president had served upon him a notice by the faculty that he should resign because of the way he was running the place and so on. The minister is well aware of the details. The point is that much of that, maybe even all of it, could have been avoided if we had put into place the proper system for getting good, sound representation. By that I mean representation of the four constituents which are most affected and most directly involved: The students; the faculty; the support staff; and the community. I know it is difficult to describe fully the community and to find a definition of it. I take it to be several things. The immediate community means the physical neighbourhood and/or city or town. It obviously varies greatly from Sault Ste. Marie to Toronto but, nonetheless, it is partly the physical, immediate-neighbourhood community. There are the segments of the community in balance; representation from the labour movement; representation from the community groups and the people who work in children's aid or whatever other groups are working in the community; from the board of education; from the trustees; from the teachers' associations; from the city or town council and so on, but in balance, and very rarely anywhere in this province can you find that.

In fact, if you go to a place like Ryerson—I know from the last day the minister doesn't like me selecting extreme examples but I do because it points out the tremendous frustrations that a lot of faculty, support staff and students are under at Ryerson.

When you read the list of the board of governors some parts of it read like a "Who's Who" column for Toronto. The vice-president for Conwest Exploration; the owner of Parkin Associates; the president of Hudson's Bay; the wife of the president of Frankel Steel—and I am not sure of her immediate connection with Frankel Steel at this point—and so on—

Mr. Nixon: You mean she's not speaking to her husband?

Mr. Warner: —these are the constituents; these totally and in balance represent the community that you are trying to serve. It's not so. The problem at Ryerson goes beyond that though. The collective voice in the decision-making process of students, faculty and support staff just isn't sufficient. It isn't enough. I'm not going to put absolute percentages on it, but I would ask the minister to look very carefully at coming up with a scheme whereby we have a balance of voice from students, support staff and faculty and the community, and that the community is represented.

In fact, in the case of Ryerson, at the meeting which you held in your office with representatives of the faculty, students and support staff, I believe they put to you some described format of representation. I think it's a good format. I don't think anybody need be held precisely to the exact numbers, with respect to the various community groups that were listed, but it is a worthwhile project. Those three groups are unanimous on their selection, and those are the three groups most directly affected by what goes on in the institution.

I will use one other example—and it's a baffling one—I still cannot understand how the government can continue to be in violation of its own Act, but the University of Toronto Act specifically states, in section 2, subsection 19:

The governing council shall review this Act and report thereon to the Minister of University Affairs within two years after it comes into force, whereupon the minister shall submit the report to the Lieutenant Governor in Council and then lay the report before the assembly if it is in session or, if not, at the next ensuing session.

That was July, 1971. It takes elementary math to figure out that two years after 1971 makes 1973, and we are in 1976 and we still haven't seen the report. The report should come forward, and with it the minister's suggestion as to any changes that he would see should be forthcoming in the composition of representation for the governing council in that particular case.

It is an area that needs leadership—desperately needs it. The colleges are in even a far worse state than the universities. The minister is well aware that students, support staff and faculty are frozen out of the decision-making process. They don't have any part in it. That is wrong, totally wrong in my

opinion. It has to be changed and needs to be changed now.

I read over the comments that you made last week and I agree, I think we are looking dead on when we talk about non-elitism in the system. We don't need a post-secondary system that sponsors elitism in any form. We don't need that. I know the minister isn't interested in having an elitist system, and yet we have one fee for the community colleges and an entirely different one for the universities; we have one form of governance for the community colleges and a different one for the universities.

Mr. Conway: What do you mean by elitism?

Mr. Warner: And within that system, particularly as it applies to the colleges, you have the unhappy experience of the people who are most directly affected not taking part in the process.

In fact, it's so bad that I understand—and if the minister can supply information otherwise, I would be happy to hear it—I understand that most of those ministerial appointments come by way of recommendation from the principal or president of the college. If that's so then what kind of a system are you perpetuating in there? No public nomination—it's different from election. Possibly there will be an election in a community if you really believe that it's still a community college—and there are serious doubts around the definition of community. If you still believe that it is, then perhaps we do need election within the community of those to serve on that board. But we at least need some public nomination, and we don't even have that.

Quite frankly I got the opinion, at every college I went to and from every group that I spoke with, that the students and the support staff and the faculty have had enough of not being represented. In many cases, what they're getting is some benevolence on behalf of the board of governors on occasion or the principal. That's fine for the daily running as it goes right now, but that's not good enough in the long haul, not good enough at all. We need some changes and it takes leadership. I think it's a good challenge for the minister because I think he can handle it and I know he has the interest. I would look forward to hearing some statement from him on it.

An hon. member: That's praise, Harry. It's dangerous stuff.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Kitchener-Wilmot.

Mr. Sweeney: Do you want the minister to respond?

Mr. Warner: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I wonder how you want to handle this this afternoon, Mr. Chairman—whether you want me to respond individually or you want me to wait and do it collectively. I'll do it either way. I'd like some direction from the Chair though.

Mr. Chairman: We do have some time restraints. We've agreed to complete all of these estimates by six o'clock. It would expedite matters if members could restrict themselves to specific items and specific topics that are interrelated, then the minister could reply in total to them. That seems to be a better way rather than you having to respond to each presentation by the opposition. So if the hon. member for Kitchener-Wilmot had something that was related to what's been said, probably that would be the best way to do it.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Chairman, it was my understanding in dealing with specific votes we would try to tie them in. Okay, I will certainly attempt to do that.

Mr. Chairman: We are dealing with vote 2601 in its entirety.

Mr. Sweeney: All right, under the main office, Mr. Minister we have already had it brought to our attention that two other ministries have obtained funds that did not come through either the budget or the estimates. I believe it was the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Housing. Have any such funds come to your ministry in this way, and if so how much? That's my first question.

I intended to leave the second one to a little later, but since it's already been brought to the minister's attention by my colleague, I think it fits in with what the Chairman just said. With respect to the investigation presently going on with the Algoma University College, it was reported that the college had not applied for \$114,000 of supplementary grants. The principal of the college has since denied that, and it is my understanding that the Ontario Council on University Affairs supports the principal's contention. I would like the minister's response on who's right: Did they or did they not?

Finally, also something I intended to bring up later but since it's already been raised I'll come along with it. With respect to the University of Toronto Act, it is my understanding, despite the provision written into the Act, that the minister has advised the chairman of the governing council that in fact that Act will not be brought to the attention of the Legislature for this session. I would

concur that would seem to be a defiance of the government's own recommendation—the government's own commitment. I would like him to respond to that, particularly since such direction has been given to the chairman of the governing council.

While we're on this vote, Mr. Chairman, I'll limit my remarks to that.

[3:15]

Mr. Bounsall: Under the minister's particular section, Mr. Chairman, just a very short comment on the topic that I was urging the minister to take action on last day. I assume that this industrial training council is to do the major work in the area of concern to me that I was urging the minister to remedy. That is, the apprenticeship training programme in Ontario. I would like the minister's comments on that. Will that do that job? He no doubt has received what I have received over the last several months, several briefs from the Hydro linemen in Ontario about the need for apprenticeship there—

Mr. Chairman: That comes under vote 2603, item 3.

Mr. Bounsall: I'm talking, as I did last day, Mr. Chairman, about urging the minister to involve himself personally in this whole process.

Mr. Nixon: The apprenticeship matter.

Mr. Bounsall: That's right. At the colleges.

With respect to the list of members of that council, which the minister reported to the House today, I have a slight feeling of disappointment in that, although he has four women out of 18 on it, there appears to be no Franco-Ontarians at all, an omission that strikes me as being rather a grave one.

Also, although some of the head offices of many of the organizations represented here are in Toronto, and one can see that those persons appointed well represent the groups they are representing, it strikes me that it is also an omission, on a geographic basis, to have nothing west of the line between Kitchener and Brantford on a council of this sort. When one reads the list, one gets the impression that there are a great number of people from the north—pardon me, we have one from the Sarnia Construction Association—with the rest virtually all from Toronto. One would hope, given the fact that these training programmes by and large would be given to the colleges, which are spread throughout the province, that one might have a wider geographic dispersal of members on this Industrial Training Council than there is.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Renfrew North indicated he had a comment.

Mr. Conway: Just a very brief comment, Mr. Chairman. I want to reiterate a point I was trying to make the other night, and my friend from Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner) has alluded to it again this afternoon. I hope that during the minister's response to this initial round of questioning, he can take some time to respond to this business about elitism, which we would all deplore. If there's anything I want out of this discussion, it's some clear indication that there is a commitment from this ministry to respect the elitism, which we must have and which we know we're going to have, in academic education at the post-secondary level.

Mr. Martel: What kind of crap are you talking about?

Mr. Conway: I think it is absolutely the worst kind of political platitudinous nonsense to ramble on and to try to tell everybody that in graduate schools, for example, that there would not be a tendency to academic excellence and the elitism that's a concomitant of that. Anyone who doesn't recognize that, I think, is being completely and totally unrealistic, and I hope that the minister will take time to respond to that.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order first, Mr. Chairman, I understand your eagerness and willingness to co-operate with all members so that we can get the best use of the limited time. I do find, however, that proceeding with the vote in this way, where a very wide spectrum of matters are put before the House with the idea that the minister will sum them up in his comments, in many respects takes away from the individual member the opportunity to follow up on an issue as elitism, apprenticeship, the selection of directors for colleges or universities, or perhaps the matter that I want to raise. I just suggest, sir, that your well-known flexibility undoubtedly will give the minister an opportunity to come in on those things without chopping it up too much, if he chooses.

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Nixon: Okay. Then the point I would like to make is the fact that in the first vote the financing of Ontario's participation in the national Council of Ministers of Education is

voted by the House. I would ask the minister why his colleague doesn't look after this, rather than his ministry; but since it is in his ministry, I would like him to report to the House on discussions, probably for the benefit of Ontario more than any other province, about the usefulness of the continuation of grade 13.

Since the minister could very well say that lies in the ambit of the other ministry—I know that he would not say that since grade 13 is seen by the government of Canada at least as supportable for its maintenance cost to the extent of 50 per cent and was originally envisaged as an aspect of post-secondary education. Many people, myself included, seriously question whether grade 13 should be continued, not so much as a matter of economy although that is something which concerns me, but I really don't see why this province ought to have 13 specific levels of instruction when students from the other provinces gain admission to our universities with fewer years of academic and formal instruction.

I think this is a matter the government is going to have to come to grips with sometime in the near future. All parties have had policy expressions on this but, because of the reaction from the community, I suppose, the government has tended to draw back from implementing, I believe, a commitment made by the Premier (Mr. Davis)—the former Minister of Education—that it would be phased out.

What kind of studies does the minister have which would indicate from his point of view—that is, from the universities' level—the efficiency and necessity, the efficiency of the extra grade and the necessity of continuing it? Certainly we would like to be apprised of the view of the educationalists from the post-secondary level.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I think I had better interject now because the list is growing and I would like to try to recognize the points made.

First of all, to the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere, I have to suggest that not every time the minister is asked for an inquiry is it appropriate to do so. I don't think it is correct to say we were pushed or dragged screaming or whatever into the Algoma situation. I, too, had visited that area. I think I was in constant contact with the member for the area. It would be inappropriate, every time a problem arises, for the minister to jump in and order an inquiry. We do that reluctantly because, first of all, of the autonomy of the institution; the board of directors

is there and in most cases its members are doing their job and doing it well.

I would back off on that. I can assure you in eight months in this ministry we have had four such rather formal requests and I think to have acted on all four would have been incorrect.

You were concerned about representation under the various Acts which have come to this House in the last four or five years. I am talking about representation on the governing councils; all have had faculty and students. As you know, one for McMaster just recently went through the Legislature and it has that kind of representation. Surely, that very clerly states to you government policy? There are, perhaps, areas of disagreement in numbers but the principle has been agreed in private bills and in public bills—both. There is no contest on whether or not the principle is agreed on; it perhaps varies a little in the numbers.

The University of Toronto Act, I think you are slightly in error, if I can say it that way; the report has been tabled to this Legislature. The Act itself certainly has not been presented.

In answer to the member for Kitchener-Wilmot, I would say I did not make an unconditional statement. I said, rather publicly, that depending on the amount of other legislation which will come to this House, that may or may not come if there is a lot of work required of this Legislature. Whether we will get to that Act this spring or not, I am not certain at this time.

Mr. Nixon: The order paper is about as thin as it has been for many years.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Yes, but I can assure you that there is a good deal of legislation contemplated and we have to take our order in the scheme of things.

Mr. Warner: Does the Ryerson Act fall into the same category?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I think they will be introduced at almost the identical time if not a similar time. We are not at all sure what community colleges want in the way of representation on their boards of governors. I have consulted, too, with various people and we get conflicting reports on who should be on those boards. It isn't the minister who makes the appointments to the boards now; it is the Council of Regents. The Act was set that way. Frequently we are accused of a political bias. This was an effort to relieve that political bias, and I think it has relieved it. I can assure you that my influence on the appoint-

ments to boards of governors is an infinitesimally small amount—if any. So the Council of Regents was set up to take it away from the political arena, and I don't fight that principle.

Mr. Nixon: Not in universities.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: We are talking about the community colleges here. It's eight and four—four by the municipality—surely not related to this House even—and the other eight hopefully do reflect the community interest.

I think we talked about students. When the Act was in place only 10 years ago, there was no possibility of graduates or of students being on these boards. We had to get the thing into place first. It wasn't long until there were students, but certainly no graduates for two or three years.

I am prepared to say that we will look at that particular thing, but I think you could appreciate that would require a basic change in the Act. I am not at all convinced that it would be a forward step at this stage of the game.

Mr. Warner: Do most of the changes come under the recommendations of the Council of Regents?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: But on the Council of Regents—I am sure there is consultation there. I am sure there is consultation between the chairman of the Council of Regents and the chairman of the board of governors.

Mr. Warner: Yes, but on their recommendation.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Not necessarily. I haven't any idea whether it's from the president or from the chairman of the board or where. That is not a discussion that I become part of and I don't think at this stage I want to become part of that. I am not at all convinced that the system isn't working reasonably well.

With regard to the amount of funds that we did or didn't have in our estimates last year, I understand the only funds that were spent by our ministry were spent in the OCAP programme. We may want to talk about that a little later. It's \$5 million to \$6 million. I don't have the exact details at the minute but essentially that's the amount of money. Everything else is presently in the estimates in front of you.

There was one point that I missed in your question that I will have to come back to. It was the second point and I am sorry I didn't get it down.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Minister, I rise because I believe it's an important one. There was a statement made that during the investigation at Algoma University College that \$114,000 was not sought by the college administration in supplementary funds and therefore it contributed to their deficit. The principal, Mr. Watkins, has denied that and that denial has been supported by the Ontario Council on University Affairs. I would like to know who is right. Did they not seek the funds? Or is the allegation not correct?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I think you might appreciate that any reply I give to that particular question right now puts me in great jeopardy. I think you would accept that, not because of any other reason than it is before the officer of an inquiry, and I have been duly warned that the less I say on this issue the more appropriate it would be on my behalf. For that reason and that reason only, I am very hesitant to make comments on whether a president should or should not have done something. I think that it would be most unfortunate if I made those kind of comments.

Our assistant deputy minister is on the stand—if I can use that term—today, and I understand that that inquiry is going very well. I get my information from quite a few sources, and the people of that community feel that Prof. Whiteside is doing an excellent job in his inquiry. You may disagree with that, I don't know.

Mr. Warner: No, no, I was just curious whether or not you get any impression that potential enrolments for the fall have been damaged in any way because of the length of time that—I take it that the report isn't going to come down, and the judgement, until July sometime.

[3:30]

Mr. Chairman: It's not appropriate for the member to be asking lengthy questions when the minister has the floor.

Mr. Warner: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Would you complete your response to the question that has been directed to you, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Yes, I will. I'm not going to make any comment on the appropriateness of actions of any of the people associated with that inquiry here in this House today.

I would like to turn now to comments made by the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Bounsall). When you were speaking the other

night about our apprenticeship programme, I was of very mixed mind on that. I don't accept that it is the worst programme going and I don't think that you wanted to imply that it is. I understand that we have one-third of those engaged in apprenticeship in Canada registered in Ontario. That may not be a yardstick of quality but it certainly indicates that it is a rather extensive programme.

Mr. B. Newman: We have one-third of the population in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I know that people from other countries, the United States and Bermuda, have sought our advice, and indeed we have seconded people to assist them in their programmes. But on the mixed mind I speak of; certainly I'm persuaded to be very concerned, as you are, with the apprenticeship programme; and long before last Thursday night.

That was the whole intent of the Industrial Training Council. I would like, for a moment or two, to enlarge on that, because the percentage that impresses me is that 27 per cent of our younger people are in our community colleges and our universities, and 73 per cent of that same age group are out in industry and business; unemployed, employed, etc. To me, and I've said this to the community colleges association, that is truly an on-tap resource and should be considered an on-tap resource. I don't covet that everyone go to university, but I do covet that everyone in that particular age group, and perhaps all ages, have the opportunity for training and the educational experience; and certainly that's related to your experience in business and industry.

This is no idle wish of mine, the Industrial Training Council. I'll be quite frank about it, I'm extremely disappointed that neither the press, nor apparently any segment of society, have really started to understand the potential of the Industrial Training Council. There's no bricks and mortar associated with that announcement. Had we built a great huge structure I'm sure it would have been headline news. But that isn't what we need; it's certainly not what I perceive as a need.

I see that Industrial Training Council enhancing the apprenticeship programme; enhancing all of those programmes that are related to that 73 per cent of our population not now intimately involved in our post-secondary educational institutions, and giving them not only recognition but the opportunity to enhance their intellectual capacity.

I could go on for ages on that particular subject, but I just want to say enough to

make you fully aware that I see that as the greatest challenge of this day and this era, to help that 73 per cent become totally involved in an educational experience and not just build more buildings to take care of them.

There was one other comment that you made and that was about the type of representation, where they came from and so on. Let me tell you that putting together an Industrial Training Council, or any board of 14 people—which is essentially what it is, there were other named but if you can appreciate for other reasons—is a momentous task, it really is.

We did consult with the francophone section of this province and we had no nominees, none. We think, and in fact I'm somewhat disappointed, that you did not comment more favourably on the representation in that Industrial Training Council. It's truly a cross-section; it certainly doesn't reflect any political bias. I think you would more than agree with me on that comment. We feel that training council has been put together with great care.

Given the framework of trying to represent all of Ontario, I recognize that eastern Ontario wasn't very well represented, nor western Ontario. This time we gave more to the north. There were some reasons for that, but when you try to put one person on a council it eliminates someone else, not because that other isn't of value, but because you want a certain balance in addition to the geographical considerations.

This morning I sent a large number of letters to people who were not on that council, and I expressed the hope that they would stay vitally interested in the programme. I regret that I wasn't able to name them at this time but we want their continued support. So those are the kinds of comments that I would like to offer.

I don't totally agree that our apprenticeship programme is on the bottom. We think it is pretty good. We think there is room for improvement and if there is a vehicle to do it it will be the Industrial Training Council. I conclude by saying that the Industrial Training Council has an equal status to the Council on University Affairs, in my mind, if not in legislative procedures.

Grade 13—I think there is one more that I would like to talk to and that's the comments of the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway). I think you and I have a problem of semantics rather than facts. I would like to suggest that what we are really talking about is not elitism, in the sense that we don't recognize the need for quality or a certain

standard of excellence; not at all. The elitism that I was speaking of, and the member opposite, I think the elitism that we were referring to was the kind of elitism that would say, "Well, I go to so and so" and by going there are being a part of that particular section you somehow or other are better than someone else. Not at all. If your work is superior—and there is an academic need for quality, there is no doubt about that—and if we say that just anyone, meaning academically anyone, is entitled to go to an institution, I agree with you we have missed the point.

We want standards of excellence in all of our institutions, and if that is what elitism means, God bless, because every single soul who has the mental capacity to be there is elite. It is a difficult word to use without, in my mind, being somewhat discriminatory in your attitude. I think all of us want quality, all of us appreciate the importance of standards but none of us wants that the elitism should reflect an attitude that doesn't relate to those two aspects.

I don't know whether you want to comment further on that, but I feel that if we are talking about quality we all agree; if we are talking about position then we don't want any part of elitism; position for the sake of position.

To turn finally to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), with regard to the cost of the Council of Ministers of Education, we share it with the Ministry of Education; 57 per cent theirs and 43 per cent ours. I can't give you a great deal of subjective appraisal of what I think of it personally. I haven't had the opportunity to attend yet.

Mr. Nixon: How about some objective appraisal?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: The people of our ministry who have attended—and there are many areas where we do discuss common problems—think it has value to us and we believe that it should continue. I have members of the staff on sub-committees who frequently attend meetings where other provinces are represented and they have always suggested to me that perhaps the meetings are long but they would not want to be without them. That's as much as I can tell you about that, unless you want more specific details on the type of programme that they have discussed. I know we've talked about student aid on occasion. There are two or three other areas I know we have talked about and perhaps I can give you a bit more on that in a minute.

Grade 13, I'm sure you're aware—I hope at least—of the interface study this ministry is carrying out with the Ministry of Education. It is a very large study in dollars and cents. We think it will give us a good deal of information, to answer your question. We hope that report will be before us in February. We're expecting a good deal of it to be supplied by November of this year. It's looking not only at the attitudes of both students and the faculty but at the fit between grade 12 and 13 and the first year of university.

I think, from where I see it at least, we are making some changes which relate to grade 13. I would like to use an illustration of a dental auxiliary programme, if I might, to make the point only. Last year it was necessary to have grade 13 and then two years of university training to become a dental hygienist. The proposal is that it will now be necessary to have grade 12 and two years.

I think the point is that in certain areas we feel very confident that you can eliminate grade 13, but to say eliminate it, period, I don't hold that view. I don't think this government holds that view, certainly not at this time. I think the more conservative way of treating that problem would be to view the courses one at a time and slowly. I think you recognize the tremendous disruption in the whole system if tomorrow it was announced that grade 13 should be finally closed out. There would be a terrible disruption and I would think it would take a lot of lead time for that to make sense.

I say a far better approach to grade 13 is to judge it individually, course by course, and I think we can do that. I think the mechanisms are in place to allow us to eliminate grade 13, a course at a time, if it's deemed advisable.

Mr. Nixon: If I might just follow it up with one question, Mr. Chairman; perhaps the other members want to pursue the topics they were discussing. This is not a new idea and it was much closer to being eliminated five or six years ago I would say than it is now. For the minister to say "We mustn't jump at a thing like this" is not hard to take because we're used to it but it's an indication that the government really hasn't been pursuing any concrete assessment of the value of grade 13.

As I would tell you the only real disruption would be in the number of teachers in the secondary level who would become superfluous and in most cases they would be the very best teachers. At least, it has been customary in years gone by for the best teachers to be allocated to grade 13 with some rather misplaced idea—misplaced now, not misplaced some years ago—that it was necessary to have

some concentration in the preparation of young people who were intending to go on not only to university but to other types of post-secondary education.

I believe we've come a long way from that. In many respects grade 13 is a mark-time year. It's great for students in grade 13 to have the opportunity to take courses in family relationships and so on but certainly as a preparation for post-secondary education I believe its usefulness is in question.

I would suggest that if you, as Minister of Colleges and Universities, are not aware of the fact that students from other jurisdictions—particularly the other provinces in Canada—come to our universities here with only 12 grades and some of them less than that and are at no disadvantage whatsoever—except that they are a year younger and there may be some disadvantage in that, which is another matter—I'm surprised he has not been given this information. I would think that cutting off grade 13 five years ago would have been terribly disruptive but now I believe it could be eliminated without a ripple except for the professional people involved and, of course, there would have to be some planning and phasing in that regard. The minister may just want to say a word about that, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I think you're aware that under the present system some of our students can complete our secondary education in four years.

I'd like to read, if I could, what project 2 of this major study is all about.

[3:45]

Mr. Nixon: What do you call it?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Major.

Mr. Nixon: I thought it was an interface.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: The interface study, "major" meaning large.

The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education will provide a description on the pertinent characteristics of students completing their secondary and honours secondary graduation. The study will focus largely on student achievement in first and second-language skills, mathematics and physics as measured by student marks and by scores on standardized achievement tests. First-language achievement will be assessed not only by multiple-choice standardized instruments but also through written prose competition.

I think they're also going to assess these against their performance in first-year univer-

sity, and those are the kinds of results that we look forward to receiving to give us a more positive indication of where we should be going. I don't follow the logic of saying that we could have done it five years ago.

Mr. Nixon: I said we were closer to doing it then than we are now, although it would be easier to do it now than it was then.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: All right. I believe the study in total is \$600,000.

Mr. Nixon: The number of dollars has nothing to do with its value. I predict now the value won't be worth a nickel.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: That's where you and I disagree.

Mr. Nixon: It'll be a waste of money.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I don't accept that at all. Had we made an arbitrary decision—

Mr. Nixon: It's a prejudice I have.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: I would suggest you're going to have platoons of experts who might better be doing something else in the teaching profession than interfacing and coming up with some of the same recommendations perhaps five years later that had been available to the minister's predecessor, particularly when he was also the Minister of Education and there was that closer bind.

I'm very much disappointed indeed that the minister is putting such store by the simple fact of spending \$600,000. If he thinks he's going to get \$600,000 of wisdom, then he's very naive.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: The hon. member is entitled to his opinion, but I don't agree with him.

It's kind of interesting. Whenever we make a decision, and I think in the last two weeks I've made a couple of bold decisions, the first question is who did you consult with? Unless you give a list 4,000 people long and spend at least \$1 million, it seems you didn't consult with anyone. Now we're saying we're consulting with large numbers and we're told we shouldn't be consulting. I have to disagree with the hon. member.

Mr. Nixon: You are right. There's no way you could do it right.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: That's right, but sometimes you're wrong too.

Mr. Chairman: Any further discussion on vote 2601? The hon. member for Timiskaming.

Mr. Bain: I'd like to pursue a matter that was raised by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Nixon: Norfolk.

Mr. Bain: Norfolk. My accent is different to yours.

Mr. Nixon: Then you must be careful.

Mr. Bain: I appreciate the minister's concern in this matter of the study by the Ministry of Education of the feasibility of changing grade 13. I would just suggest that the minister undoubtedly will be aware that 13 is not without advantage, as has been alluded to by the member who spoke previously. I would wonder when the last time was that he was involved in a grade 13 class.

Mr. Nixon: I taught it for nine years and I have a son in there now and I examine very carefully what he is doing.

Mr. Bain: Perhaps the standards in his particular school are not very high.

Mr. Nixon: Oh, no. That's a very easy put-down. You've got to do better than that.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Bain: If the hon. member feels grade 13 should be done away with, I would suggest that his experience then is perhaps unique rather than general.

The situation with grade 13 is that it serves as a very useful preparation for university. If you look at grades 9 to 12, you find that because of the course load and because of time factor, the teachers do not have the ability of preparing the student specifically for the problems that student will face at university. I found that grade 13 serves as a very useful introduction to university and that it prepares the student for many challenges that that student will face at university.

Interjection.

Mr. Bain: One thing that happens in grade 13 is that the students still have a better student-teacher ratio than they will have at university and much of the subject material is comparable to what is taught in university; therefore, the students are given an introduction to university while they are still able to relate to their teachers on an individual basis.

I found from personal experience that in statistical geography courses, for example, that are taught in grade 13, students who normally might not be innately directed towards statistics and who in fact, might have impediments when it comes to statistics or mathematics, are able to work through at a better pace and obtain more individual attention from a teacher in high school. Therefore, that student is given a good base in high school and is brought up to a higher level, and therefore is able to be successful in a course at university in which they would not have otherwise been successful if they had been just introduced to it for the first time in the university environment. I find this is true in mathematics and computer science. Students are given a very good base in their grade 13 education in this area.

I think grade 13 serves as a very useful preparation to university. If it's not being used as that, I would suggest that if the standards in grade 13 perhaps have diminished in particular high schools, if it has become a waiting year in some schools, then perhaps it has lost its impetus; but I would suggest the change is required in those particular schools and not a holus-bolus abolition of grade 13.

Mr. Conway: Is that what your party says?

Mr. Bain: As the minister has correctly pointed out, in areas where grade 13 is not seen as a preparation that's necessary for university, students don't take it any more. Where that preparation for university is not required, students can go to their selected course in post-secondary education without grade 13. I would simply say that if you are going to transfer grade 13 to university, then you are going to have an extra year involved in university, and the added costs there both for the government to provide added facilities and for students to pay for room and board, if they happen to be away from home, would be burdensome to say the least. If you are not going to transfer that learning to some other level, then in essence you are saying nothing of value is taking place in grade 13, and you are going to have to transfer that some place. If you are going to compress it into—

Mr. Nixon: You can transfer to the previous year.

Mr. Bain: I listened with indulgence to your tirade against grade 13. I assume that you will accord me the same courtesy in its defence.

Mr. Conway: What about the party's position, Bob?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Conway: Care to deal with it in point—

Mr. Bain: You can state your party's position whenever you like. I am presently stating a point of view that I have in regard to grade 13. That's one of the nice things about my party. We have—

Mr. Nixon: A number of positions.

Mr. Bain: No, we don't; that's your party. Interjection.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Bain: Our party allows for ample input before any overall decision is made. Unfortunately, the other party never makes an overall decision—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Will the hon. member direct his comments to the contents of this vote in the estimates?

Mr. Bain: I am, Mr. Chairman, except I feel obliged to fend off some of the low shots made by the Liberal Party.

In summary, Mr. Minister, I hope you will give careful consideration to the importance of grade 13 and that you continue the policy you have enunciated, whereby you feel that grade 13 is not necessary for selective courses, but to abolish grade 13 holus-bolus would be a disservice.

Mr. Conway: Speaking as a private member.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, earlier in the debate the situation of Algoma University College was mentioned. What is the relationship between the college in the State of Michigan—that's Lake Superior State College—and the problems at Algoma? I understand that the Michigan college is the only college in that state that has a lower tuition fee than does Algoma University College, and as a result it makes it more attractive to the student to be going across to the State of Michigan. Not only do they do that, they even provide a dial-a-bus service for Ontario students.

How do you plan on coping with that, Mr. Minister, so that the students in the Soo area can be attending Algoma University College, where I think they would be getting by far a better standard of education than they would in Lake Superior College in the State of Michigan?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I think the member would recognize that we don't have any

opportunity to set the fees for Lake Superior college. If they set the fees at a rate which seems more attractive to the Canadian student, and the Canadian student decides to go there, I think that is a choice that is open to that particular student. I would hope that the member would not ask me to get into a price war. If such were the case—with one college competing against another around this province—I think that would be a great disservice. We have to allow Michigan to set their fees as they will. I think perhaps they are doing that one college some benefit, but the principle of having such large differences of policy, of one institution in the state versus the other, seems to me to be not something that we would emulate.

Mr. B. Newman: I wouldn't for one minute consider that you should set lower tuition charges than they are charging, or ever lower than what would be charged in a college in any part of the Province of Ontario. But I think there are some financial problems at the Canadian university, that possibly grants from your ministry could resolve. I think you could make it a little more attractive to the Ontario resident to stay at home, rather than cross the border.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I hope too that you are aware that through their representation to OCUA, that body has recommended, and we have accepted, an additional grant based on cost—northern grants. I would think that is one factor you would have to consider as a way of helping that particular body overcome some of their difficulties. As I said before I am not going to enlarge too much on the present situation at Algoma.

Mr. Germa: Mr. Chairman, the minister is aware of the problem facing miners in the Province of Ontario regarding an apprenticeship programme, and that the Ontario Mining Association has deliberately frustrated what I think is the proper motivation of this government. I think at one point in time this minister was motivated to introduce an apprenticeship training programme for miners. The committee was set up but the representative from the Ontario Mining Association, I understand, totally frustrated the efforts of this tripartite committee.

Now the minister has seen fit to set up this Industrial Training Council. I don't think that the minister really understands how desperate and important is the situation, how dangerous it is, how many lives are being lost, and how many men are being injured, as a result of improper training in a strange environment. The job is dangerous, done under adverse

working conditions in the dark. I wish the minister would take the bit in his teeth and circumvent the deliberations of the Industrial Training Council. Because I can see that this is going to frustrate the introduction of a miners' apprenticeship programme in Ontario for some considerable period of time.

We already have a plan to work by. We know that the Province of Manitoba has a successful plan in operation. They have had it in for a couple of years now I understand. I would ask the minister to make comment, and to do something. When does he expect that we will have a mining apprenticeship programme in the Province of Ontario?
[4:00]

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Before I answer that question, the deputy handed me a piece of information that I think I should have given the member for Windsor-Walkerville, if I could have his attention for a moment. If students qualify for assistance and go to a college in the United States, they are eligible for loan only, whereas if they are eligible for a student assistance programme, they would be eligible for loan and grant. So on an individual basis there would be more assistance to at least a section of the students who are potential clients of both institutions. I think that's a point that should be recognized.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Minister, that is one way and it is probably a good way, but remember there are also courses that are not available to students who live in border towns in the Province of Ontario or they are substantially far away from them. For example, in my own community students can attend the University of Detroit, Wayne State University, the University of Michigan, or Eastern Michigan College, all within 35 miles of the city of Windsor. It would be really cheaper for you to have them attending that university, if it is the university of their choice, rather than having them attend the university 120 to 140 miles away from home. There should be some provision for a student in that kind of case also.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: No. It might be individually cheaper, but I think there are many other factors that would have to be considered as well. You're really talking about the problem of distribution of our colleges and universities all over Ontario. You can draw the same logical conclusions for other areas.

Turning to the member for Sudbury (Mr. Germa), I think you well know that Mr. Gilchrist should very well represent that interest of which you speak on the Industrial Training

Council. I am convinced that we have gone a long way in the last little while.

Unfortunately I couldn't attend the meeting that you were at. It was my understanding from that particular meeting that things were progressing favourably, and that in the last two or three months the mining association and the mine workers had come much closer together.

We are agreed in principle. It's now a matter of bringing those details into fact, and I expect that there will be apprenticeship programmes for the miners. We've agreed to modular training, those kinds of things, and I think we've gone forward a long way in the apprenticeship programme for the mining people of this province and we'll pursue that. We're certainly agreed in principle that it should happen and, with such an able spokesman on the Industrial Training Council, there should be no roadblock at all.

Mr. Germa: Mr. Chairman, could I respond to the minister? I know Mr. Gilchrist will look after the best interests of the miners, particularly in the Sudbury area—

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Hopefully all areas. He is not there for one area. I want to stress that point.

Mr. Germa: I recognize that, but I think we have to also recognize that Sudbury is the centre of the universe as far as mining is concerned. It's not the centre of the universe, it's the centre of the mining universe, and if we can solve the problem in the city of Sudbury I think we will have solved the problem all over the world.

The minister did not really tell me when we are going to have the programme. This has been under discussion for possibly 1½ years. The people on this side of the fence, the employees concerned, the trade unions involved, these people are already convinced, and Mr. Gilchrist does not have to sit on that committee to be convinced of the benefits that will accrue to having a miners' apprenticeship programme.

I don't think the minister understands the urgency of the situation. Does the minister not know that there have been five deaths in the International Nickel Co. mines in Sudbury since the beginning of this year? Most of those deaths were of young people; in fact, one person was 19 years old. He had one week in the school stope—that's all the training this person had—and then you turn him loose in the dark, on rough terrain, with loose on top of his head, and you expect this youth,

at age 19, to be wise enough to defend himself in that kind of a hazardous environment.

The situation is urgent. The situation is desperate. There are men getting killed because of lack of training and I think that is precisely what the minister doesn't understand.

I think it would do the minister good to visit a mine, in the working drifts, to see exactly what these people have to face and why we have such a high death rate in the mines in Ontario. We're killing 40 or 50 people a year and we have been doing it continuously over the years.

The situation is not new. It's just coming to the point where it's getting desperate because with the speed-up in production the costs, of course, are hitting the mining companies. The mining companies are attempting to alleviate the costs. They're pushing the work force harder. The work force has more automatic equipment, more machinery, more dangerous machinery. It's a very complex situation.

I wish the minister would take into consideration how desperate and serious the situation is and that the apprenticeship programme should be expedited and not delayed by putting it to the Industrial Training Council for its deliberations.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: We're not putting it to the Industrial Training Council. I don't think that is what I said. I said this man is an excellent spokesman for that concern and there is a meeting, I am advised, on June 1 to proceed with the negotiations between the two factions. I can't exactly legislate that there must be accord. We can put in place the apprenticeship training programme but it's important that accord between these people exists. I think the hon. member would agree that in the last month and a half a great deal of progress has been made.

The member asked me for a date when it will be done. I can't give him that date. I can tell him on June 1 another meeting will be held and if those two factions will come together and agree, this ministry wholly supports, totally supports, the concept and will make every effort to see that it occurs. We want it to occur with an harmonious relationship, if at all possible, because it will work far better if that's the relationship which exists between them than if they are told they must do this and then they continually try to find ways of not making it work.

Surely the member would agree that at the last meeting that much progress was made?

Mr. Germa: When I consider the time this has been going on, I'm totally frustrated with it and I don't agree that there has to be accord. Certainly it would be nice but I think at some point in time, the minister has to lower the boom and say there is going to be an apprenticeship training programme in the Province of Ontario.

We did it in other areas—when it was important to have an apprenticeship programme for plumbers, for instance, on account of the public health factor. That's what you have to take into consideration, not appeasement to the mining companies. The minister has to decide.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Had no progress occurred, I would agree with the hon. member, but progress is occurring.

Mr. Germa: How much has happened in the past year? How long have we been talking about this apprenticeship training programme? Nothing has happened in the past year.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I'm sorry; with respect, I don't agree. I think a great deal has happened in the last month and a half and I'll make every effort to make it continue at that speed.

Mr. B. Newman: Before we carry the vote, I wanted to ask if the minister has statistics as to the number of American students enrolled in our Ontario colleges and universities?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I think I can get that for the hon. member. The hon. member wanted Americans, not landed immigrants?

Mr. B. Newman: Just American.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Do we have that?

Mr. B. Newman: Do you have that? Did you dig that out, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: No, I have the landed immigrants and student visas but I don't, quickly, have the American component of those. I have seen those figures, I don't have them readily at hand. If we can find them we will give them to you in the next minute or two.

Mr. B. Newman: Can you give a ball park figure at all?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I am strictly going by guess now, but of the student visas in 1974-1975 the number is 5,756 and my guess would be about 50 per cent of that. I have been handed a note, about 3,500, so that is not

too far away. My understanding is that of the foreign students approximately 50 per cent are American.

Mr. B. Newman: Then actually there are more American students attending our colleges and universities in the Province of Ontario than there are Ontario students attending American universities, because the American statistics for 1974, for all of Canada, are 8,430; and if we take one-third of that population being Ontario students you would have under 3,000 Ontario students attending American universities?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Yes, I think that is essentially correct. The balance of trade has started to flow the other way, if that is an apt way of saying it, but we are not talking about a great change in numbers. Essentially I think we could agree on 3,000, give or take.

Mr. Chairman: Before the Chair recognizes the hon. member for Scarborough-Ellesmere, it is my understanding, from the chairman of the committee, that we are dealing with votes 2601 and 2602 in their entirety rather than item by item. I would also remind the members of the committee that I am informed there has been an understanding with the House leaders that estimates of this ministry would conclude by 6 p.m.

The hon. member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

Mr. Warner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief. I want to talk about item 2, which is policy and planning. It is a very puzzling little section. If you take a look at the estimate amounts from 1975-1976 and the estimate amounts for 1976-1977, I am wondering if we are going to get \$96,000 less of policy or of planning. I am not sure which we are going to miss out on this year.

I am really puzzled by the decrease and I would like an explanation, because policy and planning has been a real problem for this government for a long time and it hasn't been solved. It goes back to the report of the Commission on Post-Secondary Education in Ontario, which I think was about 1972. It was stated there:

In planning their curricular and research programmes, post-secondary institutions in sparsely settled areas should pay particular attention to special regional needs, including the academic upgrading of employees in basic industry, research related to the economic and social possibilities and dilemmas of the north; learning opportunities for persons in remote communities;

and appropriate educational services for native peoples and franco-Ontarians, designed in close consultation with each of these groups. The responsiveness of institutions to regional needs should be further encouraged by the appointment of lay members to governing bodies from a representative range of centres and areas.

I take it that the minister realizes that those objectives, in terms of planning and policy, have not been fully reached.

Further, as an up-date, on May 20, a few comments were directed at the OCUA meeting that was held at Guelph.

"Someone must shoulder the responsibility of telling universities what they should be about in the years ahead if they are to do any meaningful, long-range planning." That comment, apparently, was presented several times by various university representatives.

Someone from the University of Windsor asked: "How an individual university can plan for its future when we don't know what the government is thinking?" That's a direct quote from that person.

[4:15]

A member of the University of Toronto's governing council said the government has set rules for universities over the years—

—and it mustn't shirk that responsibility now. While the universities are waiting for direction, especially with respect to financing, the institutions' physical facilities are wearing out. We must get clear signals from on up in the system about what we are supposed to be about. Let's ask the government to do the job with us.

Then finally, a very curious comment, in summation, from Dr. Dupré, chairman of OCUA. He suggested that governments as well as universities don't like to set aims and objectives in years of restraint, and both sectors must be pushed for such information. An indirect quote: "It is up to OCUA to press both sides for planning."

(The message is pretty clear. The long-range planning is not being done. Universities are tremendously frustrated by the kind of financial planning that goes on. It seems to be very much on an ad hoc basis. You can't do it for more than a year at a time. You can't give them any budget signals for more than a year at a time. They appreciate the fact that you gave them an earlier warning this year than what they got previously, but it's still not good enough. Surely we can budget for more than a year at a time.

It's not just me or the party who has been speaking up on that sort of thing. You can

go back to documents from—this was a brief to OCUA—I believe it's from Queen's, April, 1975. One of the lines was:

The urgent need is for planning which will involve commitment by government to funding far ahead of its annual budget cycle. We do not suggest that this can or should be a rigidly-set dollar amount but a commitment to funding at a defined level up to five years ahead subject to annual review and revision.

and so on.

The message is coming in from several different sources and it all says the same thing. We just can't leave the universities in a continual state of flux. We can't leave them abandoned in the sense that they don't know from one year to the next about finances nor what your plans are and what kinds of things they should be working towards in an academic sense.

You have made it easy for them in one way. The province shows almost no interest in research, so you have made it easy for them. With the federal government cutting back their money for research, then universities don't have to get too much involved in research any more. We will let the Americans do it for us.

But you have to give some sense of direction to them. What are they all about? What should they be doing? They can define their goals, but do they fit into the government's philosophy? We don't know because we don't hear. So I am very curious and I would like an explanation as to the decrease. Can you indicate whether that is evenly divided amongst having less policy or less planning? I would appreciate hearing from you.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Chairman, also under item 2, policy and planning, a couple of points. The first one was that earlier I had made mention of what appeared to be the lack of co-ordination between the two ministries, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of Education. I had suggested that there are several areas where that co-ordination is absolutely essential, and I think it was the minister that suggested that we might refer to it again when we came to this particular point.

For example, Mr. Minister, I am really concerned about the lack of co-ordination in secondary school counselling for their own students with respect to them either going to university or to a community college or to a timed delay in their career advancement or going directly to work. Obviously this has a

great deal to do with your ministry and yet the counselling itself takes place within the other ministry. So that very obviously is a degree of co-ordination that must be carried out.

[In the discussion as to whether or not we need 12 or 13 years to prepare a student for entrance to university or to college, I would point out that I am not referring to getting rid of grade 13 or getting rid of a year as such. What I am asking is do we or do we not need in the Province of Ontario 13 years seemingly to prepare a student for the same point of entrance that several other provinces of Canada only take 12 years to do?

[At the present time, at the University of Waterloo there are slightly in excess of 100 students from other provinces in Canada who entered that university having completed 12 years of elementary and secondary schooling, and my most recent check with the administration indicates there is no noticeable difference. They are equally well prepared academically and seemingly equally able from a social point of view. I think obviously that needs to be considered. It isn't a case of whether we drop a year or not, but what kinds of preparation are required? Are we talking about integrating some of the present grade 13 programme into the 12 years? Are we talking about that or what other variation? Obviously, it is an area where co-ordination and very clear co-operation between the ministries are required.

The whole question of standardized norms or entrance tests or examinations or something was brought up a week ago with respect to graduate schools by one of the other members of this House. I would suggest that the same issue needs to be raised once again with respect to admission to either universities or colleges. We have had, I believe it is since 1967 or 1968, a lack of any kind of norms or standards.

I am not sure how far we should be going but there seems to be enough concern expressed by enough different bodies that we need to take another look at the whole business. I am not really sure whether or not your half-million-dollar study is really going to get to the heart of that. Maybe it will and maybe it won't, but obviously it's a question we have to look at.

In the same vein, we have to ask pretty carefully why is it necessary for so many of our universities now to set up remedial programmes? I am sure the minister is quite well aware that there are three or four universities that already have remedial programmes, especially in English. There is one at least that

has it in mathematics and I understand from press releases and other sources there are two more that are planning to introduce them in 1977. Obviously co-ordination, co-operation and communication are necessary between those two ministries to take a look at that. That is one area under the whole business of policy and planning.

As to the second one, I am referring to an issue that came up, and may I ask a question, Mr. Chairman? I want to make a reference to OISE. I don't find it listed anywhere else, but if there is another vote where it would be more appropriate, I would appreciate knowing that. Would it be more appropriate under universities?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I think more appropriate under the Ministry of Education rather than this vote, for most of their activities.

Mr. Sweeney: OISE?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Yes.

Mr. Sweeney: It is a post-secondary institution.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Not for the purpose of funding. It depends on what you want to ask.

Mr. Sweeney: I will leave it until I come to the universities then.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I think the clear way of saying it is that we fund OISE only through the post-graduate programme.

Mr. Sweeney: That is precisely what I want to seek out.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Okay, fine.

Mr. Sweeney: Would this be an appropriate place to mention it?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Depending on the question.

Mr. Sweeney: It is the whole issue of post-graduate education at OISE. The suggestion from the McKeough report, as I understand it, was it would have been far better to take that entire programme and put it into the University of Toronto under its faculty of education, and yet there seem to be some very, very obvious inconsistencies there. First of all, I understand that the University of Toronto doesn't have the space to house its own faculty of education students; it uses some of the space in the OISE building. If we are talking about space, it is obviously a fallacious argument. If we are talking about cost, my discussions with the administration at OISE indicate to me that the cost of a

postgraduate student at OISE is exactly the same as it would be at any other institution; so we are not going to save any money there.

The third point I believe was mentioned in that report was the whole issue of research costs, research grants and so forth. Once again it doesn't seem that it's going to cost any more, or any less, to do educational research at the University of Toronto, at York, or anyplace else, than it would at OISE.

So I would like the minister, from that particular perspective to either straighten out my thinking—or straighten out somebody's—because I just can't see the consistency of the argument.

Now, the other side of the coin is, do we need a post-graduate school in education at all? That's a different question. I personally feel that we do, but there are a number of people who don't. If we are agreed that there is going to be post-graduate education in the area of education, then I fail to see the relevance of the arguments that have been used. I would like the minister to respond to that.

Under planning and policy, Mr. Minister—I guess it's the whole issue of planning more than anything else—I noticed three very current reports—one from the Council of Ontario Universities, which is primarily the presidents, another from the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations, and another from the Ontario Federation of Students. I think from those three bodies, we're probably hitting the broad segment of the university community, the administration, the faculty and the students and not necessarily in that order. In every single one of those reports—and these are the most recent ones, 1976 reports—there is grave concern expressed about the whole business of long-range planning for this ministry in this province—and as was pointed out by one of our other colleagues in the House, this goes back.

Most recently I was reading the 1972 Commission on Post-Secondary Education report and they expressed rather grave concern—now that goes back four years—about the whole place of planning here. Last year's report of the Ontario Council on University Affairs was sufficiently concerned about the whole business of planning, that they specifically directed questions to that, to their various constituency bodies. What I'm really trying to get at, Mr. Minister, is that I don't think we're getting any closer to this.

There are just too many different constituent groups of this whole matter referring to your ministry, that keep saying year after year after year—whether they're right or not, very obviously their perception is, their in-

ternal feeling, to avoid a vulgarism, is—that things just aren't being looked at from the long-range point of view.

I know the minister has heard me say over and over again, my concern about this happening at individual institutions as well, that one of the ways in which this could be facilitated at an individual institution level, is some kind of long-term financial or economic commitment on behalf of your ministry that for the next four years, five years, whatever is reasonable—certainly more than one at a time—we're going to give you some opportunity to plan for the long range.

[So I'm referring to long-range planning at the ministry level, at the various constituency levels we've spoken to, and also at the institutional level. It's a serious problem.]

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Before I have any comment on long-range planning I would like to reply to the one question about the difference in the estimates, this year versus last, in policy and planning. We had a task force on native people that was paid for essentially last year, and that accounts for almost the entire difference in the budget.

The role of our policy-and-planning section is one of co-ordination. A good deal of the planning, per se, goes on within the two branches of colleges and universities, and so not all of the planning in a pure sense occurs by any means in that vote. It is seen more appropriately under universities, the programme administration. A good deal of those dollars would account for our planning process, plus the Council on University Affairs is there.

I want to make some comments about two or three areas that I think are directly related to long-term planning. Somehow or other these basic facts get lost in the politics of the situation. It concerns me a great deal.

[4:30]

[First of all, all of us agree totally on the need of the autonomy of the institution. Surely if you're going to give the institution autonomy you also give it responsibility. And a great deal of the long-term planning that they charge should be at my doorstep is indeed in their own ball park.]

Mr. Bullbrook: Do you equate the universities and the community colleges in that total autonomous feeling you have?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: No.

Mr. Bullbrook: Good for you.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: No.

So let's not just say it's all the responsibility of the Minister of Colleges and Universities to talk in terms of long-range planning. Secondly, without trying to escape any of the responsibility that does naturally rest on my shoulders in that area, surely we all recognize the very significant role of the Council on University Affairs.

Only two or three weeks ago I had a conversation with the chairman and suggested very strongly that this year I wanted them to concern themselves about things other than just money. I'm sure that he is equally concerned on that point. Right at this time of year, they are listening to all the submissions from all the universities and surely that is a great forum for long-range planning.

Somehow or other, the importance of those two aspects seems to be forgotten when anyone in this House or outside of this House points the finger at the minister and says "You should be doing the planning." If I did the kind of planning that many people would con me into thinking I should be doing, the next statement that would be levelled at me was "you're interfering." The suggestion was made that we set the rules for the universities. Indeed we don't.

Mr. Warner: That was a quote. I didn't say that. The universities said that.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Whoever said it should have been taken to task, because we don't set those kinds of rules. So it's hardly fair, in my opinion, to offer that as evidence that we have a responsibility for long-range planning. I'm not asking anyone to suggest that I don't have a responsibility in long-range planning, but certainly not the total amount. Last year we took almost entirely the advice of our council that's charged with planning, the Council on University Affairs.

Someone in the last session we had here asked how many dollars—I think it was related to dollars—did we spend as recommended by the council. I think the figure is 99.2 per cent. In other words, they suggested that we had a need in the system of 99 of 100 per cent, whatever those dollars would amount to—\$651 million was the actual amount allocated this year to that budget. That's 99.2 per cent of what they suggested was necessary for the system.

If that doesn't strongly reflect how well we're accepting the advice of the body charged with planning, I don't know how much closer I could get.

Mr. Warner: But the gap was \$20 million in two years.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I don't think it was \$20 million. I know the percentage is well above—Pardon?

Mr. Warner: It was \$16 million plus \$5 million—\$16 million last year, \$5 million this year.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: If you want to go accumulative, that's fine. But we have some responsibilities.

I think it's a tremendous mark of understanding on the part of this government. If a body recommends to us that so many dollars should be spent and their job is not to worry about the other priorities that are necessary in this province, and when we take their advice to the tremendous extent that we did, that is a mark of respect for that body—it's a mark of understanding by this government of a commitment to post-secondary education.

I think it's truly amazing that that figure should be so close to the recommended figure when you consider all of the other pressures—particularly in this year. Not to drag that red herring into the discussion, but particularly this year when there are other priorities that are required in this province to come that close to that recommendation I think was really a significant point.

Without trying to say that I have no responsibility for long-range planning, I think it's only fair to draw that to the hon. member's attention. I'm sure that he's aware of it.

My understanding of history and the reason you study history is that you understand the future. That may be a bit of an oversimplification but surely to goodness, if that is relevant at all, the universities should be able to look back to the last four or five years, or whatever number of years, and get a pretty clear indication of the funding mechanisms that will go on in the years that lie ahead. You know, it has been pretty consistent: A year ago the funding was 16.9 per cent, and it is 14.4 per cent this year. Those are the figures for the last two years; I don't know the percentages before then, but it hasn't been an up-and-down pattern, whenever we had a few dollars left over, that we would put them into the system. It has been a consistent pattern of increasing dollar support in number and a relatively stable position in the amount of money that this government has given to the colleges and universities of the province. I think that mark of stability is of tremendous significance in long-range planning. They almost, of certainty, have been able to count on a continuing level of support.

You might argue that it should have been 10 per cent vs. nine per cent or something of that nature, but had it gone from minus four per cent one year to plus 15 per cent the next year and then down to minus two per cent, that kind of financial commitment certainly would have led to a very uncertain long-range planning procedure. But that has not been the pattern. It has been very consistent over the years, and I think you and the universities should recognize that fact far more than has been the case.

In other areas, to be more specific, we talked about long-range planning. This year, the council advised that we should freeze the graduate programme. You talked about the importance of the graduate programme in the university life, and indeed it is. But planning can't always be that we will add more and more and more. Sometimes it means we must cut here or there to add somewhere else.

Mr. Chairman: May I exhort the minister to keep his remarks a little bit briefer if we are going to touch base on the remaining sections of these estimates? We have got only an hour and 20 minutes now.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: You are right, Mr. Chairman. I am prepared to shorten them. I would then go to the remarks of the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney); he was concerned about grade 13, as was the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon).

I think a point I would like to make in that regard, in addition to the one I made previously, is that we should not consider shrinking from five to four years in the secondary level but rather, if the process is to occur, it should occur from grade 13 to grade 12, because there is quite a difference if we shrink the secondary or the secondary and elementary together. I think that's the way we would think in that area. How much further we are going will depend a lot on the interface study.

I think, having talked about the freezing of the graduate fund base, that has a direct effect on your comments re OISE. They had fairly significant assistance this year because we averaged over the last two years rather than one year; that was a direct help, as I understand it, for their programmes this year. Had we done it with one year only in mind, it would have been to their disadvantage, but we have averaged it over two and we will average it over three. The amount of funds is frozen on the base, however. They will then have to come forward—not just OISE, but all of the graduate programmes—with some changes that they want to see in pro-

grammes. It is going to put some pressure on the system, but rightly so. They must make some choices in their priorities of graduate studies.

Ms. Sandeman: I'd like to speak briefly on the policy and planning vote, but I'll confine my remarks to policy and planning as it affects one fairly small but very important group of students; that is, the handicapped students in post-secondary education in this province.

I was looking recently at the report of the select committee on utilization of educational facilities, and without going into the interesting recommendations they make about an open educational system, which would provide alternative places of learning and ways of learning for those in the province who are not presently served by the existing institutions by providing educational opportunities for students wherever they happen to be and in whatever forms are most relevant to their situation.

I think it's important that we look at the situation of handicapped students who can get to university, are physically able to get to a university or a college. We should, I think, bear in mind the recommendations of the select committee that wherever possible, entry should be made possible for those in Ontario who do not presently have access to existing educational institutions because of the nature of the institution. Specifically the concern of the educational institution should be with those who are physically handicapped and who are barred from the university or the college by the nature of the building or whatever it may be.

The specific recommendation that the select committee made in relation to high schools was an interesting one. I don't believe that the Ministry of Education has followed up on it. That was that the government should provide special funding to school boards and municipalities to cover 80 per cent of the cost of improving accessibility to existing public buildings—that would be schools—so that physical accessibility for the handicapped would be improved. I wonder if the ministry has given any consideration at all to the improvement of physical accessibility of colleges and universities for the handicapped.

The select committee recommended further that the handicapped themselves should be involved in the development of the proposed changes. The hon. minister will probably tell me that the provisions under the new Building Code will protect forthcoming generations of handicapped students. The problem at the moment, as I see it, is that there are very few

capital projects planned or allowed under the present restraints.

We are not going to be seeing many new college buildings, which will, by mandate of the Building Code, provide accessibility to handicapped students. What we do have are large numbers of buildings which were built at a time when people gave very little thought to accessibility. I wonder if the ministry is giving any thought at all to improving accessibility in those existing buildings by encouraging the universities and colleges to give thought to it and perhaps providing some kind of funding on the basis of the kind suggested by the select committee for high schools.

Accessibility, of course, is a key factor for the handicapped. In terms of education, the concept of accessibility, I think, means several things, not only the physical accessibility to the building. It's fairly easy, straightforward to put in ramps and make sure that elevators are accessible, that the washrooms are renovated and so on.

We have talked already in these estimates accessibility to the educational system in Ontario for students. Fears have been expressed about elitism. The minister has addressed himself to the fact that qualified students with the right educational qualifications should be able to enter the universities. It seems to me that there is a danger of a kind of elitism creeping in in Ontario at the moment, an elitism which depends not on your financial background or your social standing or the college you go to or any of those things, an elitism based on the fact that some of us are physically sound and whole and others of us aren't.

Basically, it's the healthy, the physically healthy, who end up in colleges and universities more than the physically handicapped who have equal mental capacities, who have the educational background, who have all the qualifications that their healthy peers have. The principle of accessibility to colleges and universities somehow seems to become lost when we are talking about accessibility for the handicapped. Again I must stress that I don't only mean physical accessibility.

[4:45]

There are so many problems involved in this. One of them is part of this whole question of co-ordination between high schools and universities, which a previous speaker brought up, the problem of counselling for high school students about the availability of post-secondary programmes. There is no co-ordination at all, as far as I can see, between schools and universities and colleges

when it comes to telling students what colleges and universities have physical accessibility for handicapped students and what colleges and universities have special programmes for handicapped students, whether it be the provision of taped books or programmes of that kind.

I think that is a gap in the liaison which the ministry should address itself to. A lot of energy seems to be given in co-ordinating academic programmes and in letting students know what's available. If a high school student in Ontario is interested in studying mathematics or physics, it's easy enough for that student to discover—not as easy as it should be, but reasonably easy—what colleges give what courses in physics and what specific areas of physics or maths or whatever it may be the college is specializing in. That information is available to the high school guidance counsellors.

That same kind of care isn't given to identifying either the presence of handicapped students in the high schools and universities or ensuring that the necessary support services are available to them or letting them know where the support services are presently available. If that isn't done, the whole principle of equal accessibility to higher education becomes a mockery.

Not one university at the moment can readily identify the handicapped students among its population. I believe that a mechanism has to be developed to ensure that this is done. Where the nature of the handicap requires a particular support service, then proper efforts must be made to ensure that that service is available. We're talking about a relatively small number of students and the expense of a relatively small number of dollars. But if we believe at all that all students, once they are qualified by their academic standing and their mental capacities as eligible for university programmes, then we must follow through and make that apply to all students.

If you happen, for instance, to be a sighted student in a university in Ontario, you take it for granted that there are going to be books available to you, that there will be libraries, that there will be microfilms and microfiche and copiers and the whole gamut of printed material available, if you can use your eyesight to take cognizance of it. The university takes it for granted that it should provide those materials for sighted students. There's no question at all in their minds and there's no question at all in anybody's mind that it's legitimate to fund that kind of material for students.

I believe that a blind student should be equally confident that printed materials will be available to him in a form that he can use. If he can't use a microfilm reader, he can certainly use a tape recorder. We discriminate between the blind and the sighted. We take it for granted that one group deserves material and that the other group is somehow special and you have to fight for the right to provide those materials.

When that kind of special assistance is available for handicapped students at a university, it is, as I said, very difficult for high school students situated in other parts of the province perhaps to discover where the assistance is available. The guidance counsellors don't know that. They know that the University of Waterloo has some high-powered maths courses or whatever it may be, but I'm sure they have no idea in the world whether or not the University of Waterloo could cope with a blind maths student.

I think that handicapped students suffer an extreme frustration in that although they wish to continue their education and have the necessary academic qualifications, they cannot easily discover where or how they can do that. In many cases they find that, in fact, they can't do it. I believe that we must have better liaison between the schools and the universities in that area to make the transition between high school where, on the whole, handicapped students do find it fairly easy to function with some care from the people who plan.

Then there seems to be no liaison between that function of education and the post-secondary education where they are just dropped in and left to sink or swim in many cases. I'd like to remind the minister of the frustrations being experienced by Trent University and by the students at Trent and across the province, who are using the audio-visual library at that university. The frustrations of the university are particularly in their attempts which seem to stagger on from year to year to place that service for handicapped students on a stable financial footing.

The service, as you know, serves students across the province both in high school and in university. It serves blind students, dyslectic students and students with many kinds of physical handicap. At the moment, by a strange anomaly, the funding comes not from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities but from the rehabilitation branch of Community and Social Services.

That rehabilitation branch has very stringent standards of eligibility for funding. It

funds students on an individual basis. It doesn't fund the programme; it funds individual students. The question I would like the minister to address himself to really is the basic question. Surely eligibility for access to educational material within the university should be guaranteed by the simple fact that the student has gained entrance to the university. To base eligibility for access to educational material on the degree or kind of physical handicap that that student may or may not have is surely discriminatory.

The discrimination is showing up in a very strange way in the audio-visual programme at Trent. Last year only half of the students who needed to use the audio-visual library and in fact did use it, were eligible for funding from the rehabilitation services because of the regulations that govern the vocational rehabilitation service.

Just to give you one example: To be eligible for funding under rehabilitation services, the handicapped student must be able to answer the question: "What is your goal?" It is not enough for him to say: "I want to be at Brock University or Queen's University; I want to study mathematics; I'd like to get a degree." It's not enough. He has to have a specific career-oriented goal in mind.

We never ask any other student who enters a university: "What is your goal?" It is thought to be sufficient that they have aspirations and ambitions to be at the university to follow the course of study and perhaps to come out with a degree. We don't ask other students to delineate their career goal before we provide them with a microscope, with books, with tape recorders or whatever it may be. But we do ask handicapped students to describe their goals. It seems to me that the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, not the Ministry of Community and Social Services, must be firmly in charge of all educational programmes, and not give responsibility to another ministry for helping particular groups.

The minute you start to do anything else, you get the situation in which handicapped students find that their handicaps are unnecessarily compounded and that opportunities which are open to others are denied to them. In conclusion, I'd just like to say that I don't think I could put the case more fairly than the director of the rehabilitation branch of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. He expressed his opinion on where the funding responsibility should be for handicapped students in a letter in March of this year.

He said:

I recognize that colleges and universities are on regular formula funding, which is to provide services to all students within the university community. Our position remains that disabled clients are members of the university community and must be accommodated in a similar manner. I realize that budgets are tight in times of constraint, but if we are to be fair and equitable to everyone who is admitted, then we must set our priorities according to that philosophy.

I think that Mr. Crichton, who has enormous experience in dealing with the handicapped, recognizes the discrimination which is inherent in this situation, when he finds himself having to treat handicapped students as a special group. His opinion is, and it is also my opinion, that colleges and universities must treat all students alike. If they accept the students as being eligible for education, then they must make eligibility and accessibility a reality by making educational materials equally available to all students. If, in the case of one particular programme—the audio-visual library at Trent University—that means taking that programme back under the aegis of Colleges and Universities, then that must be done.

As the minister knows, Trent University is making superhuman efforts to find backup funding for that programme from private industries, from their Second Decade Fund, and so on. But I think the basic point is that those students, handicapped or not, must be under the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, and not under the Ministry of Community and Social Services. If you do that, you are making their handicapped more important than their educational needs.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. minister—any comments?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: It is very difficult, Mr. Chairman, to be brief to that particular dissertation. You dealt, it seemed to me, with two subjects—one, information; and two, the handicapped.

Ms. Sandeman: Information for the handicapped.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: It seemed to me it spilled over a little into information, first of all. There are all kinds of publications available to sighted, granted, and for the deaf as well I am sure they are equally as valuable, and I am not trying to be facetious when I make that comment.

There are all kinds of publications and there are all kinds of counselling officers in

our institutions. As a matter of fact sometimes we are criticized for over-recruiting. We go out into the high schools and we have been criticized for an attempt to see too many into the institutions. So when those people are there, they are there to dispense information. Sure, they are there to do other things, but the very nature of their visit is to supply the information to the students of our high schools. If they don't have that information, surely that isn't a responsibility that this ministry has failed in. They are there, and the information is readily available.

We have some programmes of some significance. You well know the one in Trent, and I think that this ministry has extended itself a great deal over the original commitment. The former member for your riding discussed this with our ministry, and we extended ourselves at least twice beyond the original commitment because of our sympathy for it. The clear commitment then was that that was seed money, and it should then become a responsibility of the institution.

I think the time is long gone, hopefully, that we are demanding a line-by-line accounting of funding, or that we will give conditional grants. Yet that is precisely what you are asking for in this area. I think that would not serve the system or the individual very well, because it isn't as though more money would be available. We would have to direct a portion of the funds now given on a global budget, to a specific purpose. It might be easier if we did—for the university for one given instance—but in the total programme it would be infinitely less rewarding to them and to their students. That's a responsibility they have once they receive these global budgets.

[5:00]

I can give you two or three illustrations of where we have made efforts. You know of the one at Trent. At George Brown there is a special pilot project of the Council of Regents. It's a four-year project for the deaf and that has been renewed. Our information services has a complete booking of facilities and what courses are available for the handicapped. If they call the information services of our ministry, we will give them that information.

Given some of the limitations of the funding mechanism, we have gone a long way in trying to assist the handicapped. In no way would I want to accept that we're not sympathetic to the same concerns as you are, but I think we have made a great effort in many of these areas and in certain areas, we will continue to do so. It's hard to quit.

Mr. Bullbrook: I will try to be five minutes and you might want to ring the bell on me at the end of five minutes. I want to discuss under policy the question of what I understand to be a new policy with respect to ceilings on community college surpluses.

First of all, I understand you had a meeting in January with, I believe, the council of presidents of the colleges or the Council of Regents—I'm not sure which. I want to say two things to you. I totally support the position, if you've taken it, that you develop a ceiling posture with respect to community colleges' surpluses. You recall that famous day—the reverberations in my community were magnificent and indescribable. I went home to read in the newspaper where one member of the board of governors had said, "Bullbrook's big mouth has deprived us of our auditorium." I thought to myself, goodness gracious, have I done that again with my big mouth, have I deprived somebody of something?

I spoke to the Rotary Club last week about this very thing. I began with a kind of general apology on my part to the community college because of the development of a somewhat less than a happy liaison over the years. If some reporter quotes this again, I'll get a pair of handcuffs, notwithstanding that new piece of legislation that was introduced today. It all began with that famous ad six years ago from the community college "Come to Lambton College." It said in the *Globe and Mail*: "Miles of sandy beaches—60 miles from Detroit—no compulsory attendance—no final examinations." Those were the bedposts of the community college, and I took issue with that. I said to myself I just am not certain if that should be the foundation for an invitation to someone seeking to be educated to come to that institution.

It has been downhill since then. The same president is there and it has been downhill since then, believe me. They don't like me, with some great justification because at times I do take issue with them. In any event, as I said to the Rotary Club, if I have deprived them of a happy liaison over the years, I apologize for that. But I tell you if I have deprived them of an auditorium as a result of building up a surplus out of operating funds over the years, let me tell the minister and the deputy minister that I don't apologize for that one tittle for one moment. If you permitted these colleges to undertake that type of what I consider nefarious financing, in the context of my Children's Aid Society being cut off, in the context of closing down beds in my hospitals, in the context of telling

my city council that they must restrain their expenditures and in the total development of priorities in my community and the Province of Ontario, then you have not done your job in the past. There isn't a member in this House—and by the way, there aren't many members in this House.

Mr. Samis: Five Tories.

Mr. Bullbrook: May I say, in fairness, I sit here and see the people in the gallery and they must say to themselves, what do those fellows do? Where are they? There are 125 of them. There are six down there and three of them are asleep. I realize I am out of order here but the public should know there are two committees going on, I believe, at the present time, and there is constituency work.

I want a response on this. I want to know am I correct in assuming that community colleges have been appropriating funds and building up surpluses? For example, was Lambton really entitled to say that they would be taking this money and eventually building an auditorium out of this money? Because I thought there was about a \$14.5 million capital programme. I guess I don't understand things probably, but I felt that an auditorium would be part of their capital programme and that they wouldn't be using surpluses developed, as I understand it, out of current funds and held there for that designated purpose. Could we perhaps have an explanation of that?

Secondly, a compliment for the development of your ceiling, certainly. A question is what are the criteria with respect to those ceilings? Fourthly, a compliment also in response to my interjection where you talked about the total autonomy of post-secondary institutions. I asked whether you distinguish between universities and community colleges. I would like the minister to shake his head "yes," he does distinguish between them. Because there is a basic fundamental difference between those two systems of education. Government must play a significant part in the community college role and not leave it to the boards of governors or the Council of Regents themselves for direction as far as curriculum development goes, as far as the expenditure of funds goes and as far as to some extent—

You know, curriculum development—I don't want to get into that. It just really becomes nauseous at times, when I, as a lawyer, get a letter from Fanshawe College wanting to place their legal secretarial arts people in Sarnia. At the same time Lambton College in Sarnia is trying to place their legal

secretarial arts people in Sarnia and in London. When they are closing down your hospitals, you wonder to yourself what type of Machiavellian enterprise we have created. Where did William Davis go astray? What misguided adventure did he undertake with respect to this when we have to spend that amount of money? Perhaps you might comment on the ceilings.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I can't believe I wrote the time down as 5:02 and you were very good. You were within your time limit. You are within your ceiling, sir, and your estimate.

First of all, I agree with some of your comments on advertising. As a matter of fact, not too long ago I saw an advertisement and took it upon myself to make a comment to the sponsor of that particular advertisement. I think the word was "in grand style" at that particular time and I think we have to accept that not all of the advertisements are necessarily to the taste that you and I might like.

I would not always want, in this House, to be in conflict with the member for Sarnia, but I think when we come to reserves that perhaps you are not looking at all of the system. Lambton happened to be one of two colleges which perhaps violated to a partial degree some of the good management procedures that we would like to see. We have subsequently taken pretty direct action and I will be glad to suggest the guidelines that we have now placed on their reserve surpluses. We think it was desirable to do that.

Mr. Bullbrook: Did I deprive them of their auditorium? Tell me, did I?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: No.

Mr. Bullbrook: I didn't think I did. I didn't think your ministry was that slipshod that I deprived them of their auditorium.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I am not sure whether you did or just who did, but the theatre for Lambton College is rather low on our capital priorities. I don't know who wants the blame or the credit, be that as it may. But let me say publicly that that particular theatre was not high on our list of capital priorities.

Mr. Bullbrook: I hate to interrupt you but I must know this. Do you mind if I ask you one short question? Where am I going astray on this? Can a college build up a surplus—do you follow me—as they are doing and then earmark it for an auditorium? That's what I am asking.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: No, not without—

Mr. Bullbrook: Permit me the floor, for a moment, sir, would you? You see, I want to understand it.

They say I have deprived them of their auditorium. I get the feeling that I have deprived them of their auditorium because there are ceilings now placed on the surpluses and they were going to use the surpluses to build their auditorium. Now, that's the feeling I get. That's the logical consequence of what they say.

Could they have really done that? Could they have built up surpluses over the years and then built an auditorium without your approval? Isn't there a capital programme involved in these things?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Reserves built up over the years could not be used for capital projects unless the minister approved.

Mr. Bullbrook: So, really, I didn't deprive them of their—

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I think I will have to give you that much.

Mr. Bullbrook: Good, thanks, great.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: It is almost as hard as pulling teeth, but I am going to give you that much.

Mr. Bullbrook: Harry, I didn't get that pulling teeth one until right now. That shows you how slow I am, I apologize.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I am amazed.

There are only two major examples and I won't belabour this point because we have done it here in the House. We do have guidelines, given the constraints, and perhaps you would accept that I send a copy of the guidelines to you. I think you will find them acceptable.

Mr. Bullbrook: I'd love that. Fine, thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman: On vote 2601; the hon. member for Kitchener-Wilmot.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to add one small footnote to the comments from the member for Peterborough (Ms. Sandeman). With respect to handicapped children and the seeming inability of the Ontario post-secondary institution system to deal with them—and I am referring specifically to those children who have severe learning disabilities—the minister may remember that I brought this up in the House once before

when speaking to the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells).

Like the member for Peterborough I believe that this is essentially an educational matter, not a rehabilitation matter. It is my understanding at the present time that we have a significant number of our Ontario students in American high schools down in the United States because there isn't the facility to help them here.

The next step also is true—and it has been brought to my attention—that for those students to go on for university or college education, they are going to have to get it in the United States because there isn't a single Ontario university that is able to take those kinds of students in and give them the kind of programme that they need—it is that very specific group I am referring to. If the minister could comment on it.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: As so many of these are, Mr. Chairman, they are sort of philosophical discussions and difficult to come back to the factual information. I was discussing that very problem the other day with an interested person, and I thought the comments that that particular person made are rather pertinent to your question.

Perhaps we are going to have to take all of the dollars involved in looking after people in the education age-group—and we have agreed that it is a long one; let's assume the major portion of their education up to 21 or 24 or whatever—then try to divide those funds on an equitable basis. That is, we will know the bell-curve of the population distribution and maybe try to relate that to a bell-curve of the dollars expended.

It is pretty harsh treatment in what we would hope to be a humanistic approach to the problem, but we have got to concern ourselves not only with the gifted child on this end of the scale and the handicapped child—either mentally or physically or the whole bit—on the other. We have to look at all of that as one problem. We have to try to associate the resources that we have for these people on an equitable basis and not sorts of the ad hoc programmes that all government have had.

It is so easy to neglect a specific group because another group has made such an excellent presentation. I think we have to try to match, to some degree at least, the dollars involved right through the spectrum of our educational process. That would be quite a horrendous task, but has a lot of bearing.

To restate it a bit, if there is 10 per cent in the gifted-child bracket, then there would be 10 per cent of the resource spent on that group. If the handicapped have another percentage, that percentage would be spent on that particular group. We have to try to match dollars with numbers to some degree, and I think you are asking now that we allocate certain dollars to a specific group of people. It may have a lot of logic, but we would then likely have to subtract it from another group of people.

[5:15]

The point I am coming back to you with is that we should be doing this on a very rational basis. We just can't say we will add here without taking away from there. In the whole process we should try to relate the dollars involved to the numbers that are in each particular group on a rational basis—maybe not a 1:1 ratio but at least on a rational basis.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry, but I have just one comment on a reference by the minister. We are still talking about planning, which is the sort of thing I was really trying to get at a few minutes back.

When I talk about long-range planning, overall planning, I mean taking a look at the total needs of the people in this province, and groups such as that, to be sure that there is some place for them. The minister's comment, on the other hand seemed to suggest that we should leave it to the autonomy of the individual institutions. But there may not be any individual institution in this province that sees it as part of their responsibility to look after certain groups of people or to see to it that certain provincial goals are met, maybe even national goals. That's the sort of global planning I was referring to.

I don't see how the minister can operate his ministry within the perimeters of this province and not take some of those factors into consideration. You can't leave those up to individual institutions; they may choose not to do it, and yet certain needs have to be met by somebody. That surely has got to be a decision of your ministry.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: That's true, and I hope the member might accept that that isn't something that comes to a person overnight. If it's long-range planning—and I am sure you agree, by nodding your head—it does take some time to have a philosophy developed. A weakness of the system, or maybe a strength—you might view it that way—is that ministers don't always stay in that position long

enough to have long-range planning on their own part. That's quite separate from the ministry, which indeed has a responsibility for long-range planning.

I would assure you that there's a necessity for the minister himself to develop some of these things, and as I mentioned the other night, I am holding a meeting next Monday to try to do that very thing. When we are dealing with a problem of this magnitude, it's not something that will happen the first day you are in office. Either that or it seems to me that you have arrived there with so many prejudices that maybe you are not viewing the whole thing in perspective.

I personally am taking some approaches to give me, first, a better understanding of the system and, second, to come to grips with long-range planning. But I ask you always to consider that I have other bodies to deal with, and there is a great deal of insulation, if you will, between their wishes and my wishes, even though we are both thinking in the long term. I think, given those restraints, you won't see great changes overnight, but I want to assure you that I am personally making a fairly concentrated effort to come to some long-range philosophical views on post-secondary education in Ontario.

Mr. Chairman: Shall vote 2601 carry?

Vote 2601 agreed to.

On vote 2602:

Mr. Chairman: Vote 2602 is the university support programme.

Mr. Warner: Mr. Minister, I personally find it quite frustrating, looking at everything that we have to deal with, which involves spending more than \$1 billion, and to have only five hours to ask questions about the \$1 billion. With 40 minutes remaining, and with what I take to be one of the most crucial items of the whole business at the bottom of the pile, the student affairs programme, what I would like to do, to use the time as wisely as we can, is to be able to express many of my concerns in the budget debate and hope that the minister could respond to those concerns in some detail at his earliest opportunity, because I would like his opinion, which I respect.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Mr. Chairman, is the member suggesting that he would like to raise the issues and have me respond outside of this period?

Mr. Warner: No. What I meant was that I will just raise a few issues here, and what-

ever I have got left over, I'd like to raise during the budget debate and would appreciate a response from you, if that's agreeable.

Under this vote I'll confine myself to two issues. One is the position that women find themselves to be in if they are students in our post-secondary system. I refer to "Women in the Universities," a document produced by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada in 1975. It is stated on page 49:

The observation was made that cultural conditions have kept women out of traditionally male fields and one wonders if universities are doing as much as they can to assist in correcting this anomaly. It is also obvious that there is inadequate financial assistance for part-time students and an apparent discrimination against women heads of households. Many women are in non-degree courses and universities should do more to assist women by offering degree programmes in courses in places more easily accessible to them. There is a great need for stable child-care facilities in universities and the lack of planning and policy making which this lack reflects is resented.

It speaks to the frustrations of women and particularly of single-parent families where the woman is the head of the household, of the kinds of frustrations they have to deal with where their needs really aren't being met. As to women as faculty, I refer to the status of women report from the University of Guelph this year in which two of the conclusions drawn were that there were two areas in which universities' practices were discriminatory against female faculty.

The average starting salaries for female lecturers were much lower than the average starting salaries for male lecturers even when both groups of individuals seemed to have equivalent academic qualifications. Secondly, the average current salary for male lecturers exceeded the average salary for female lecturers, although the data suggested that there is no basis for such a discrepancy. As female staff members, the differences are even more desperate in a way. Referring to the support staff papers put together by Carleton University, it was found that the average salary for a male support staff member was \$11,248 whereas the average salary for a female was \$7,431. That's quite a difference.

The status of women report from the University of Guelph substantiates that type of statistic, when they say that women in the non-professional staff tend to cluster at the

lowest salary grade levels, and that it's 85 per cent. They say:

These low-paying jobs are traditionally female sex-typed. Men, 52.9 per cent, on the other hand, occupy the top salary grade levels. Some, though not all, of these jobs are male sex-typed. Thus the university in its role as employer tends to mirror the practices of society at large.

In the non-professional group, women outnumber men by 50 per cent whereas there are three times as many men as there are women in the professional group, which is the top salaried group of the staff. Fewer women than men occupy supervisory or administrative positions. Also in many top job categories there are no women.

It requires leadership again obviously. It does reflect some of the practices that are in the rest of society, but still some action would help.

On the other item, I'd like to know if the ministry keeps figures or, shall we say, recommendations as to the number of students per square feet or however you wish to phrase it for their instructional areas. I'm thinking of Scarborough College where they have, I take it, a severe problem—I don't know if it's the worst in the province but it's pretty close—as to the number of students in relationship to the amount of space available in their instructional areas, in particular, the library.

I gather the library facilities are extremely overcrowded. I take it they don't know at this point whether or not they are going to get the capital funds needed to increase their library size and their library facilities. It's quite an important aspect for them and they need some answers.

Finally, Mr. Minister, will Brock University ever get adequate science facilities? I really don't understand what's going on. They have a building which shouldn't be used. It can't be renovated, and yet they can't seem to get capital funds for it. When will they get the money? I'd really like to know and I'm sure they would. They are very frustrated over the whole thing. There are obviously all kinds of issues, but I'll leave them since time is so short and get back to them later.

Mr. Chairman: Does the minister have a brief reply?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: We have the number of square feet in each institution. If you want to know specifically about one or several, we'll be glad to supply that. It varies a great deal.

Mr. Warner: Are there any guidelines for construction purposes? Are they guidelines?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: There were during those days when we were in the business of building. Let me make it very clear.

Mr. Warner: No need to have them now.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Notwithstanding the constraint for dollars that we face in this province, there is another very valid reason for constraint for building purposes. We are now in a time where we need perhaps to update a building here, renovate a building there, but huge numbers of new buildings just aren't necessary in this province.

To allay your fears about Brock, I'll be down there a week on Monday and I will view it firsthand. But I don't hold any great hope for large dollars of capital funds to be allocated in this province in the next few years. Mostly because I don't see any need other than the maintenance to reach the cyclical renewal of buildings. But there will be no major construction projects—because of a declining enrolment, 1982 variety.

Mr. Warner: The Scarborough College library—does that apply there as well?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: We have a long list of priorities. Let me put it this way: Since Oct. 7 last year, I haven't said yes to any request for buildings, other than cyclical renewal. We have some ongoing commitments. We had about \$34 million in capital budget this year. Most of that was a free-committed ongoing commitment for capital expenditure. Very little new facilities will be built in this coming year, including the two you talked about.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Chairman, time is flying. I'd like to cover two or three areas very briefly, Mr. Minister, in this whole vote 2602 due to the shortage of time.

The first one refers to the quality of the teaching process at our universities. I think it has been too long accepted, by some people anyway, that it is less important to be a good teacher at the university level than it is at the secondary or at the elementary level. That's a point with which I personally very much disagree. I think you have to be a good teacher equally at the university level as at any other level.

I notice in the 1975 advisory memorandum from the Ontario Council on University Affairs a recommendation that a specific sum of money be set aside over the three-year period beginning 1976, to provide opportunities for university professors, lecturers, etc.,

to become more effective in their teaching roles. I also notice in the report of the Council of Ontario Universities a strong reference to this same point. Very recently, the University of Waterloo, to demonstrate the importance which it places on this particular role, identified its three top teachers, those three professors whose excellence in the teaching process they wished to distinguish and make known to the total community.

[5:30]

I have two questions. The first one is: Does the minister or does he not agree that the teaching process per se—quality teaching, the ability to teach well, not simply to stand in front of a group of students and say something to them is an important one in universities in particular? That's the vote we happen to be on at this particular time. The second part of the question is: Does the minister feel it important enough that he would put the weight of his ministry behind the support of the kind of programme that the Ontario Council on University Affairs is recommending, or some other version of it? That would be the one question I'd want to raise.

With respect to universities, and the minister touched on it briefly himself, I would ask what the plans of his ministry are for the enrolment and population forecast from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 1975. This shows that the grade 13 enrolment of this province is going to peak in 1979 through to 1981, right in that period of time. Then it's going to drop very, very dramatically, for all Ontario, by about 17 to 18 per cent. But more specifically, according to this graph, it's going to drop 30 per cent for northern Ontario.

I agree that that's three, four, or five years away but obviously the kind of decisions which this ministry should be making right now would have to bear upon that kind of information. What precisely is the minister planning to do about that?

The third point is: I notice under this particular vote that we speak of the Ontario Council on University Affairs. We briefly referred to the fact a few minutes ago that the council was asked to relate to three very specific goals—this was a year ago—that the ministry itself defined. Those goals were with respect to funding. Those goals being: "Sufficient to offset inflationary trends." That was one. "Sufficient to maintain and improve existing levels of service." That was two. And three: "To accommodate predicted enrolment increase." Those were the three goals which this ministry assigned to the council and said:

"Now you come and tell us how many dollars we're going to need to meet those goals. Not what you want to do"—the council—"but to meet those goals."

Yet, in the 1975 budget the minister undershot the request to meet his goals by \$16 million. In the 1976 budget, he undershot their request for his goals by \$5 million, a total of \$21 million. I'd have to ask how does the minister jell that? And I ask that specifically because they suggested funds to meet the goals which his ministry specified—not which they specified.

And the last point, while we're talking about the Ontario Council on University Affairs. I understand that there are two student representatives on that council. I think we have to question the word "representatives" because I understand two things. First of all, the various student bodies throughout the province do not perceive that they have very much input as to who those student representatives are going to be. I'm not quite sure, and they don't seem to be very sure, as to who makes the decision. I understand they submit names to you or to the council but those names have not been accepted.

The second point is that the present two student representatives on that council are, in fact, both graduate students. They've graduated out of the system and yet they're still on the council. What provision does the minister or the council intend to make to see to it that there is truly student representation on that council?

Hon. Mr. Farrott: Right. Im going to go back to the one question. I'd like to give a few facts here. The net assignable square feet per student in the university system is 109. I was going to guess 100 sq ft. Brock University is 128 sq ft at the moment.

To go to the member for Kitchener-Wilmot, yes, I do agree that the quality of teaching is of extreme importance, but I would like to add a little bit to it. The motivation of the student to learn is an integral part of the quality of teaching. Without motivation on the part of the student, the best teacher in the world, in my opinion, fails, and that's part of the process. It is a two-way street and a part of the responsibility and attribute of a teacher.

Mr. B. Newman: A good teacher should motivate.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: That's right, I agree. It is very important that the good teacher does that. They are tied together is all that I am

saying, and I think you are agreeing with that.

Mr. B. Newman: Right, I agree.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: We are agreed then that the quality of teaching is important. You asked if we did support the concept. In 1973-1974, we spent \$350,000 for teaching and learning and instructional development; in 1974-1975 and 1975-1976 that amount; in 1976-1977, \$500,000. I think that should answer your question in the affirmative in every sense of the word.

There were a couple more points I think I have to make in reply. The very point that I made about concerning ourselves with peak enrolment is in the answer of why we were tough on capital. It is not particularly easy to say no to some of their demands, but it is for this very reason that you point out, peak enrolment. We may have in the years 1979-1982 slightly more crowded conditions in our schools than will be there three or four years later. It is important that we recognize that and we are doing so.

I would like to point out also that generally the advice of the advisory committee, OCUA, is accepted, but I think you would give to the minister the right that not always should all of that advice be accepted. I think I have to reserve for myself the right to accept or reject their advice—that is my responsibility.

I would point out that in most instances, if you go over the score sheet of 1974-1975 and 1975-1976, most of their advice has been accepted, certainly all their major advice. Although you talk about \$5 million, you are still talking about less than one per cent. I have to remind the universities of this once in a while, that they have an opportunity, outside of government funding, to pick up a few dollars. It is something that they can do on occasion and I would like to encourage them to do so.

Mr. Bounsall: Just on the capital funding question, I fully agree with the general thrust of your remarks that there need be no further funds spent on capital for universities. The plans that all the universities had in Ontario before the enrolment levelled off for the year 1972 were all quite grandiose and based on that increased enrolment that had been occurring continuing forever. The cutback in capital funds and expansion around the universities in Ontario is certainly quite a reasonable thing.

But I have one point to make with it. Some of that space is overbuilt in certain

areas, like offices perhaps and libraries in some cases. It differs from campus to campus; but there is a need for specialized space. Perhaps the situation at Brock in the science area is one of those. Just because they have a student-generated allotment of less space than in fact they have, it does not mean that that space is usable or convertible to space for a particular defined need. I am not familiar with the Brock situation, but that might be the case. It might mean that one should be spending some new capital funds to bring those specialized areas up to the needs of that particular university even though at the same time it is overbuilt in some other areas—areas that can't be converted.

In that regard I would like to ask you just where in the priorities are the physical education facilities and their expansion at the University of Windsor? That is one area that falls directly into that category—where the amount of physical-education space is even too small for the cut-off point of students which they allow into that university. You have the specialized space problem there again. Where you may be overbuilt in some areas, your generation of space for the campus as a whole—I don't know those figures, and don't have them right at hand at the moment—is such that they may not show if there is a need for any more building. There has been a limited enrolment in phys-ed for quite some time there because of the space facilities—and yet the space for the enrolment to which they have limited themselves is not adequate to serve that particular programme.

I believe as well that they are going ahead with some fund-raising activities—a \$10 million drive, as you have mentioned, not necessarily all for phys-ed. They are not sitting on their hands; they are now trying to get moneys elsewhere. But for phys-ed at Windsor, perhaps for science at Brock, there needs to be provided that specialized space facility to meet the ongoing programme they have decided they should handle, and can't handle.

I would urge you not to close your mind absolutely to the specialized space facilities that are required from time to time—in new space around the province, in the context of your general overall plan, with which I totally agree. We don't need more buildings on our university campuses except for some specialized space from place to place.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I think there is very little I can add to that, Mr. Chairman. I agree, and we are going to try to do a total overview of both systems perhaps in the

next three or four months and people will know where they are on their priority list then.

Mr. di Santo: I would like to ask the minister: 1. How many foreign students are in Ontario universities, and if possible, university by university? 2. How much do you plan to save if they don't come to our universities? Or how much money do you think that you are going to get if we have the same number of students after the fees are increased?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I think I gave the amount of money in the House today. I made my statement. That will depend on enrolment. I think I suggested then some place between \$2 million and \$6 million; \$2 million this year is expected.

I would be glad to give you a breakdown of all the universities. I can tell you system-wide. But considering the time let me send you that information; it will take quite a while to read it. I will send it to you.

Mr. di Santo: May I make just a few short remarks, Mr. Chairman? I think that this decision is really a disgraceful one. What we are doing in Ontario at this point I think is part of the general strategy of the Conservative Government to try to create the image of a government able to put restraints in areas which don't affect directly the people of Ontario, and at the same time a government which is able to run the province for the benefit of the people of Ontario. I think this is a disgraceful decision because what we are doing at this moment is cancelling a tradition, a liberal tradition—liberal in the American sense—which has allowed people, especially people in the Third World, to have access to universities and then to go back and contribute to the development of their countries.

[5:45]

Now, by increasing the fees, especially for those countries of the Third World where the currency is devaluated because of the economic situation of those countries, we are practically making it impossible for those students to come to Canada. We are saving from \$2 million to \$6 million, and I think that is really ludicrous.

A long time ago there was a proposal of the United Nations which urged the industrialized nations to allocate a certain amount of money for the underdeveloped countries. In Ontario now, in order to save a few million dollars, we are creating the preconditions to perpetuate the underdevelopment of the Third World countries.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I can't believe the member hasn't had an opportunity to express those thoughts previously during question periods. There are some very obvious answers to that question that I've made many times in the last two or three weeks. I totally disagree with your comments. Frequently you're incorrect. I would ask you to look at some of these particular figures. If you say we're stopping the foreign students from coming—not at all.

Mr. di Santo: You are not stopping, but you are creating—

Hon. Mr. Parrott: We are subsidizing that foreign student someplace between \$800 and \$12,000. That's not exactly a penalty.

Mr. Breaugh: That is not exactly an accurate figure either.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: That's the cost. I'm asking, and I think rightly so, is that the position that your party is taking, that you disagree with our decision in that regard? We've had an opportunity to discuss this—we can use the balance of the time in this debate if you so choose. But I think it's important whether I'm hearing your position from you or whether I'm hearing your party's position.

Mr. Bounsall: Mr. Chairman, just very briefly—

Mr. Chairman: I'm sorry, the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville was on his feet.

Mr. B. Newman: Because of the lateness of the hour, I'm simply going to make a few statements and have the minister's officials look into the bonus plan that has been set up at the University of Michigan to acknowledge and reward exceptional teachers. It's apparently recognizing and rewarding its great professors. I'll Xerox this, Mr. Minister, and I'll give it to you. Please look at the thing and if there is some way that we can implement something similar to this, I think we would be doing the university professors a good deed.

Mr. Bounsall: Very briefly on the point made by the member for Downsview (Mr. di Santo), Mr. Minister, he was right on—perhaps not in some of the details, but right on in his general philosophy. We shouldn't forget in this country and in this province that it's only a very short time ago that we became self-sufficient, in our production of students through our universities, to meet our educational and our technical needs. We owe a large debt to the underdeveloped countries in this world. We were underdeveloped too

only a short time ago and many of our students trained in Britain 50 years ago. Around 30 years ago they were being trained in the United States. Our students who went there and came back to this country, or students in that country who we then imported into this country, received their training at no additional expense in those places, by and large. In terms of receiving that aid we were a Third World country not many years ago. We have to be a little more broad-minded than appears in this statement in your moves with respect to the tuition fees to foreign students. We must keep in mind that we are now in a position of being able to train students for parts of the world that lack the facilities or the space to train those students themselves and that we have an international debt to pay back.

Having said that, I appreciate the fact that Ontario may choose not to run any sort of foreign aid programme to Third World people. That's fine. If that's the decision of Ontario, that's fine. I appreciate that we're subsidizing those students here at the current normal rate we charge our students. That is fine. In spite of the debt which we owe to the international field from the training and the people who have come into this country over the past years, we may in this province decide that we don't have a debt to the world and to the Third World, if that's what Ontario is deciding.

You've therefore decided not to have any scheme of scholarships to students from the Third World yourselves. I'd like to hear what the minister's comment is on that. Having made this announcement, have any discussions been entered into with the federal government in terms of scholarships for students in Third World countries to make up that tuition difference if they wish to study in the Province of Ontario? Because Canada itself, and primarily industrialized Ontario, owes some sort of world debt in university training.

I understand with the amount of subsidy why we are reluctant to continue to make that subsidy in a year of great restraint by this government. But what efforts are being made in Ontario, or with the Canadian government, to see that some sort of Third World subsidy in terms of education, a debt which we owe to the world is somehow continuing to be repaid now that we have the expertise and the facilities to make that repayment?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I suggest very briefly that indeed, we are continuing to repay the

debt. I gave the member the figure before. It's becoming a very large number of students that we're paying our debt to. It isn't as though it was cut off, and add that to the fact that we stated that we will waive that surcharge for sponsored students plus cultural exchange students.

Given the very significant increase over these past years, I don't think it's reasonable at all to suggest that we're not continuing to pay that debt and that we will.

Mr. Chairman: Shall vote 2602 carry?

Vote 2602 agreed to.

On vote 2603:

Mr. Chairman: Any comments on colleges and adult education support programmes? The hon. member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

Mr. Warner: Mr. Chairman, one comment and question. Then I'll waive this vote and the last vote and will carry on in the budget debate with further questions and comments.

Does the minister believe that collective bargaining in the community college system for faculty members and support staff members is a waste of time? Further, does he believe that a good way to balance the budget for some of these colleges would be to close the doors at Christmas for the faculty members—that is to lay them off for two weeks and rehire them, so they could save money? Is that something he believes is a good idea?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: The answer is no, and no.

Mr. Warner: Good. Would he then send his reply to Dr. Colvin, who's the president of Fanshawe College? He seems to have the opposite viewpoint and it isn't causing good relationships with the staff there—faculty or support staff members at all.

One last one—sorry. Relocating Centennial College—I believe they're getting a new campus. Aside from the dollars that are being spent—I understand about the building, crumbling and so on as it is—when the ministry relocates it, could the minister please plead or whatever it takes with the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) to help give Scarborough some funding so it can develop public transportation? Because when the college moves from where it is, where it has good public transportation, to its new location, those students are going to find it extremely difficult to get to the college. Would you please see if this government can get some money poured into public

transit in Scarborough? It desperately needs help. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I'll be glad to talk to the Minister of Transportation and Communications, but I won't be consulting with—

Mr. Reid: Won't do you any good.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: —Dr. Colvin on his statement and he doesn't consult with me on mine.

Mr. B. Newman: I simply wanted to bring up three questions to the minister. He can reply to me personally later if he wishes.

Is your ministry still funding Twin Valley? Your deputy will know what it is all about.

What is the contemplation concerning St. Clair College in Chatham? Is it your intent to eventually have it as a separate community college?

Then the apprenticeship programme—I am sure the minister is aware that as far as an apprenticeship programme is concerned, quite often the difficulty is that the numbers allowed to graduate are controlled. As a result, students will take certain subjects in a high school, get into an apprenticeship programme, take one or two years and then are set adrift because the apprenticeship ratio to journeymen is either very low or there happens to be layoffs in that field.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I know the Twin Valley operation fairly well. The answer to your first question is yes, and to the second question, no; and I share your concern on the third one. Hopefully we've talked that one out here today.

Mr. Chairman: Any further discussion on vote 2603? The hon. member for Kitchener-Wilmot.

Mr. Sweeney: Two quick points, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I understand that one of several reasons for setting up the community colleges in the first place was that we were beginning to attempt to try to be all things to all people in our university system. It became apparent that certain approaches to university education were becoming diluted and that wasn't advisable. I don't want to get into the elitism question, but that was one of the facts.

It strikes me that right at this point in time, we are maybe in danger of doing the same thing to the community colleges. They were set up to meet certain kinds of needs. I referred to earlier—last week I believe—my concern about them trying to be all things to all people, and I would like the minister

briefly to respond. Does he share that concern?

The second question I want to raise is with respect to the statement you made today on the Industrial Training Council.

Mr. Reid: Just putting it off again.

Mr. Sweeney: I believe it was just this past fall that the task force report on industrial training entitled "Training for Ontario's Future" was brought to your ministry's attention with somewhere in the neighbourhood of 48 recommendations. It is very difficult to know from the statement you gave today Mr. Minister, if this is an attempt to respond to the task force report. Or is it something different?

Mr. Reid: Just another committee.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: From the Dymond report? I think I would say to you that this is the major response to that report.

Mr. Reid: And when was that tabled? When did we have it?

Mr. Chairman: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Some considerable time ago.

Mr. Reid: Years ago.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: But some of those recommendations have already been accepted, some of them are not going to be accepted—and I think you would agree with some of them.

Mr. Reid: And it is three years since you have done anything.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: That doesn't mean no action has taken place. So that that answers the first portion and the member from Rainy River drew me away from your first point. I'm sorry.

Mr. Sweeney: I think my concern, very briefly expressed, was that since the community colleges—

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Oh right. There is no doubt that I would restate the original purpose. They are community colleges and they are practical institutions—that maybe wasn't said in that way but I certainly want the community college to stay in the practical education process. There is no place in my mind for pure research in the community college. That's another system. I want it to be a very practical approach to the educa-

tional process. It can't be all things to all people and it should not be a junior college.

Those are some of the quick statements that I would like to give and maybe we can talk about that at greater lengths. I am a little concerned about being too brief on that kind of a question of such importance.

Mr. Chairman: Shall votes 2603 and 2604 carry?

Votes 2603 and 2604 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes the estimates of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. It is my understanding that when we resume in committee at 8 o'clock we will deal with the estimates of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX

(See page 2653)

Answers to written questions were tabled as follows:

17. Mr. Godfrey—Inquiry of the ministry: Is the Ministry of Health pressing the Ministry of National Health and Welfare to clarify and make effective preventive measures against the importation of Lassa fever into this province? Have there been urgent requests to the appropriate medical areas to develop sufficient physicians to diagnose and treat this tropical disease in our province?

Answer by the Minister of Health:

A Canadian contingency plan for Lassa fever (12/3/76) prepared by Health and Welfare Canada has been sent to all medical officers of health.

The Ontario Ministry of Health is pursuing the use of the National Defence Medical Centre, Ottawa, as a primary isolation facility in the province for dangerous communicable diseases such as smallpox and Lassa fever with no restriction on location of the patient at time of diagnosis or initial strong suspicion.

No Canadian physician, to our knowledge, has had experience diagnosing or treating Lassa fever but many have book-knowledge and it has been well reviewed in medical journals. Our laboratories can handle the testing if need arises.

15 Overlea Blvd, Fifth Floor,
Toronto, Ont. M4H 1A9
April 15, 1976

To Medical Officers of Health

Re: Canadian contingency plan—Lassa fever

Dear Doctor:

On March 16, I sent you a paper on emergency communicable disease control measures. Many replies have been received and these will be considered in the next revision of the paper.

Attached is a copy of the Canadian contingency plan for Lassa fever (12/3/76) prepared by Health and Welfare Canada. Please note particularly the principles underlying federal government participation (page 5). The Ontario Ministry of Health is pursuing the use of the National Defence Medical Centre, Ottawa, as the primary isolation facility in the province for dangerous communicable diseases such as smallpox and Lassa fever with no restrictions on location of the patient at time of diagnosis or initial strong suspicion.

A brief description of Lassa fever may be found in the manual, Control of Communicable Diseases in Man, the American Public Health Association, Twelfth Edition, 1975.

Yours very truly,
G. K. Martin, MD, DPH,
Executive Director,
Community Health Division
and Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Attach.

CANADIAN CONTINGENCY PLAN LASSA FEVER

Introduction

1. Lassa fever is a highly virulent and communicable disease, carrying a mortality of 45 per cent in hospitalized cases. It was first identified in 1969 in West Africa. From 1969 to the present, Lassa fever outbreaks in West Africa have occurred on nine discrete occasions. Over one third of these infections have been acquired person-to-person within hospitals. In only one outbreak (Sierra Leone) were the majority of cases acquired in the community.

Aim

2. Guidelines are offered with respect to actions to be taken, communication links and personnel to be involved, should there be an importation into Canada of a suspected case or

contacts. It must be noted that at this time there is no entirely safe facility in Canada for the isolation of patients, protection of attending staff, and avoidance of laboratory biohazards.

Possible presenting situations

3. There are at least five circumstances under which Lassa fever could be present:

(a) A presumptive diagnosis is made at the port of entry: The Department of National Defence (DND) will endeavour to provide transportation to Ottawa. Admission will be to the National Defence Medical Centre (NDMC).

(b) A presumptive diagnosis is made after arrival in Canada: A case not already admitted to a hospital may be transported by DND and admitted to NDMC.

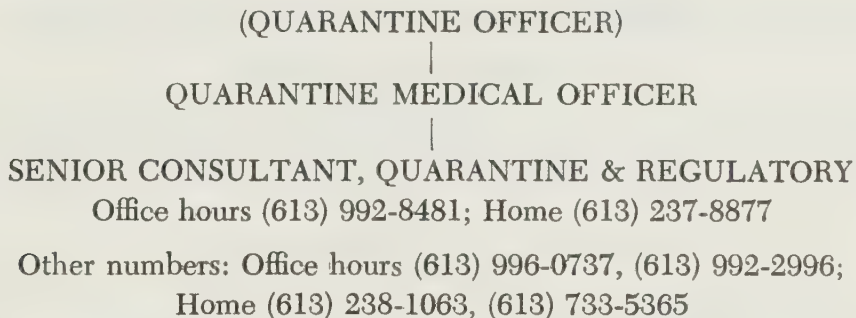
(c) A case or suspected case initially admitted to a civilian hospital: Inter-hospital transfer would likely increase the potential for spread of disease. The patient should not be moved.

(d) Contact of case or suspected case of Lassa fever: Surveillance will be for 21 days following date of possible exposure. If the contact should fall ill, a decision will be made in consultation with DND as to disposition of the patient, based on closeness of contact to the index case, the nature of symptoms, and the present location.

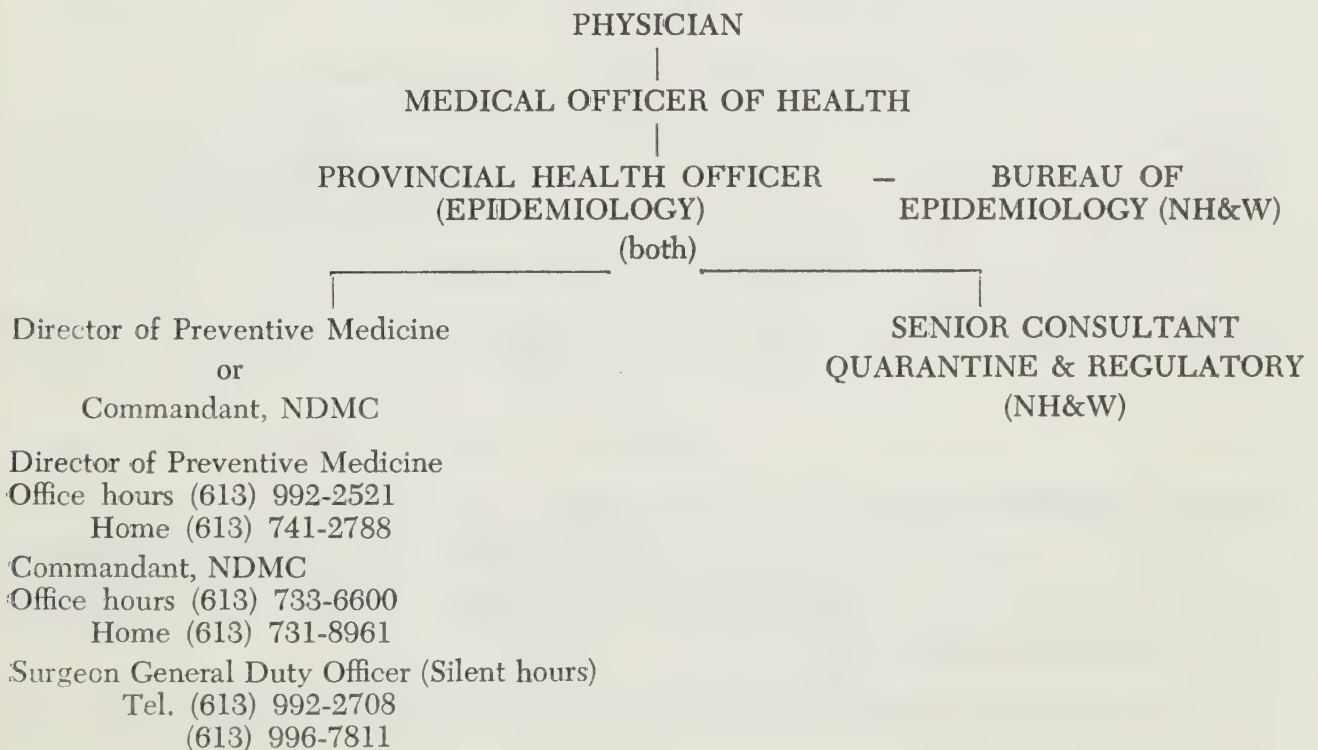
(e) Dedicated aeromedical evacuation: A presumptive or confirmed case outside Canada may be considered for dedicated aeromedical evacuation. The Minister of External Affairs in concert with the Minister of National Health and Welfare may request the Minister of National Defence to undertake such a mission. The Canadian Forces when so instructed will transport such a patient for admission to NDMC, Ottawa.

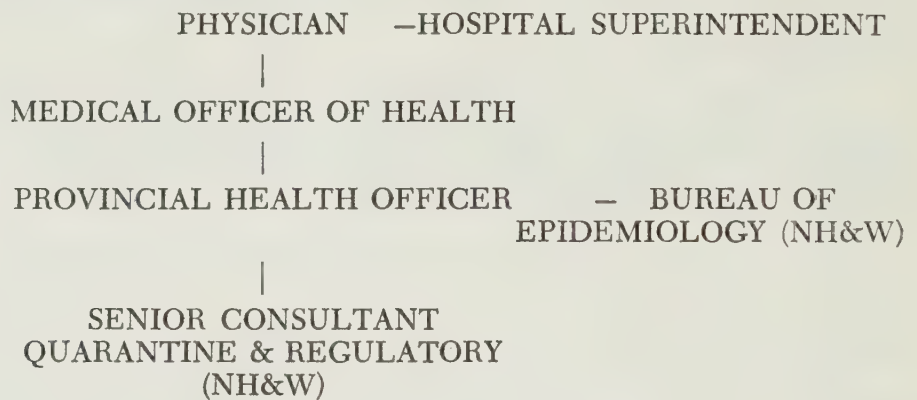
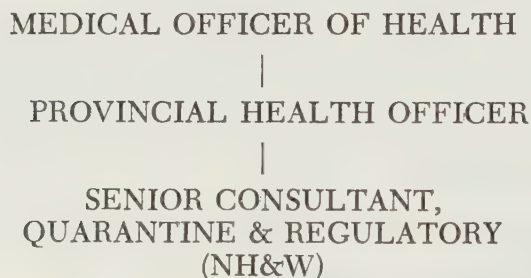
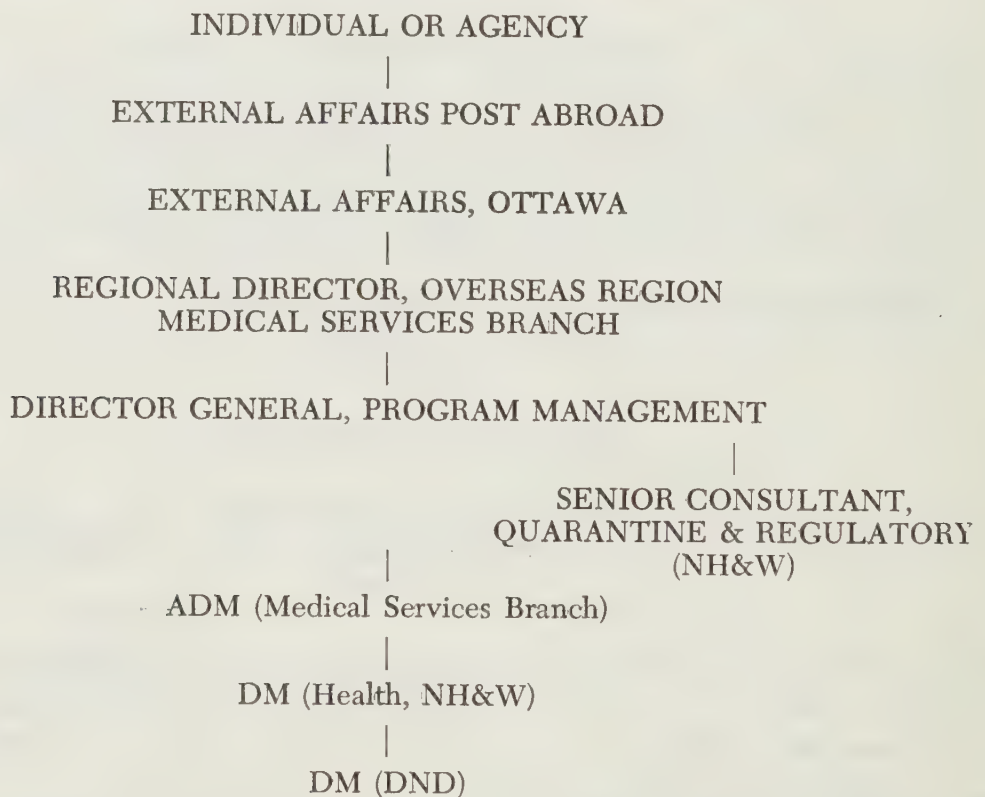
Primary lines of communication for urgent notification of suspected case and contacts

4 (a) INTERCEPTED AT PORT OF ENTRY



(b) DETECTED WITHIN CANADA (NOT HOSPITALIZED)



(c) DETECTED WITHIN CANADA (IN HOSPITAL)**(d) CONTACTS****(e) DEDICATED AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION (OUTSIDE CANADA)****Principles underlying federal government participation**

5. It must be stressed that while both the Surgeon General* and the Director General of the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control have agreed to admit and undertake laboratory procedures on patients with highly virulent communicable diseases, such as Lassa fever, this is done only as a pro tem manoeuvre.

6. The existing facilities admittedly do not meet biohazard safety standards in dealing with such dangerous communicable diseases. Acceptance of such patients has been agreed to be-

cause it is considered that the best presently available care and precautions can be provided under these conditions.

Inter-hospital transfer to NDMC cannot be entertained because such would only serve to increase the number of contacts and make even more serious the potential for spread of the disease.

7. A definitive contingency plan for Canada must await the availability of purpose-designed isolation facility and maximum security laboratory.

The Canadian Quarantine Manual (Canadian Quarantine Contingency Plan) provides comprehensive reference on control of an outbreak of smallpox. Useful reference may be made to it; therein may be found additional telephone resource numbers.

* Subject to the approval of the Minister of National Defence.

Room 218, North Wing
Parliament Buildings
Toronto, Ont. M7A 1A2
March 29, 1976

OPEN LETTER

Hon. Bette Stephenson,
Ministry of Health,
10th Floor,
Hepburn Block,
Queen's Park,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Bette,

As you know I have a question on the order paper with regard to Lassa fever and what arrangements are being made for the possible importation of it to this country. May I add another question as to what arrangements will be made if cases are discovered and where they will be treated?

I am,

Yours very truly,
Charles Godfrey,
MPP for Durham West,
New Democratic Party.

69. Mr. Grande—Inquiry of the ministry: Would the Minister of Housing please table how much money has been made available to all municipalities in the province under the OHRP programme? In particular will the minister provide information re: all the boroughs in Metropolitan Toronto in terms of: (a) what are some of the most common reasons for applications not being approved; (b) funds for each borough; (c) assistance to borough for the administration of this programme in terms of personnel; (d) how many applications have been received in each borough since inception of the programme; (e) what type and extent of advertising has been done to make the public knowledgeable of this programme and hence benefit from it; (f) how many applications have been approved to date; (g) what happens to the funds that have been allocated to municipalities but as of yet not been used up?

Answer by the Minister of Housing:

Under the Ontario Home Renewal Programme the following figures indicate monies made available to all municipalities for the current and last two fiscal years:

1974-1975	\$10,158,200
1975-1976	\$16,000,000
1976-1977	\$13,000,000
Total	<u>\$39,158,200</u>

In regard to the use of the programme in Metropolitan Toronto, the following figures are the totals for each of the area municipalities:

	1974-1975	1975-1976	Total	Funds committed by municipality to applicants
Toronto	\$1,352,726	\$341,126	\$1,693,852	\$1,700,303
East York	\$ 210,680	—	\$ 210,680	\$ 145,341
Etobicoke	\$ 565,966	—	\$ 565,966	\$ 80,700
North York	—	—	—	—
Scarborough	\$ 696,532	—	\$ 696,532	\$ 177,570
York	\$ 282,386	—	\$ 282,386	\$ 24,353
Total	<u>\$3,108,290</u>	<u>\$341,126</u>	<u>\$3,449,416</u>	<u>\$2,128,867</u>

Where the commitment of funds appears slow, ministry staff are contacting the municipality to assist in resolving any problems. North York has not made application as yet.

Funding is given to each area municipality to cover administrative costs. The amount given to each municipality is six per cent of the total amount advanced:

Toronto	\$101,631
East York	\$ 12,641
Etobicoke	\$ 33,960
North York	—
Scarborough	\$ 41,792
York	\$ 16,943
Total	<u>\$206,967</u>

The number of applications received in each municipality and the number approved is as follows:

	Applications made	Applications approved
Toronto	650	404
East York	303	82
Etobicoke	115	24
North York	—	—
Scarborough	634	76
York	15	4
Total	<u>1,717</u>	<u>590</u>

Some of the most common reasons why applications are not approved are that the homeowners do not meet the eligibility criteria or that the type of work requested by the homeowner is outside the bounds of the programme. In some cases, applications have been unsuccessful due to the fact that the proposed repairs would still not bring the house up to the minimum standard. Also, some applications were not approved as the homeowner was unable, due to previous debts, to bear the cost of the OHRP repayments.

There has been considerable advertising to make the public knowledgeable of the OHRP programme and its benefit to them. The ministry has provided press releases, posters and homeowner brochures and staff have also organized a number of OHRP workshops throughout the province. Municipalities have advertised the programme through a variety of ways including newspaper ads, staff brochures and flyers.

Those funds allocated to municipalities but not yet utilized are kept in a separate bank or trust account to earn interest which is turned back into the programme.

80. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry: Would the Minister of Industry and Tourism list all those NODC, EODC and ODC funded projects that have utilized the services of Tom Jones and Sons Ltd. or any of their subsidiaries, since the inception of the development corporations? Would the minister further list the amount paid out to Tom Jones and Sons for each of the projects?

Answer by the Minister of Industry and Tourism:

NODC, EODC, and ODC have not directly utilized the services of Tom Jones and Sons Ltd. from inception of the responsive corporations to date. The owners or directors of projects funded by the corporations let their own tenders without any direction or influence from the corporations.

84. Mr. Cunningham—Inquiry of the ministry: What is the total number of government employees released from the service of the Ministry of Health since the implementation of the recommendations of the Henderson report?

Answer by the Minister of Health:

The number of layoffs scheduled in early 1976 amounted to 656. Four hundred and forty employees have found jobs in other ministries, general hospitals and community mental retardation facilities. Therefore, 216 employees in the Ministry of Health have either been released or are under notice of layoff, without obtaining alternative employment.

93. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry: Would the Minister of Government Services table all renovation costs applied to the “Mini-Queen’s Park” facility in Thunder Bay so that various ministries could be accommodated.

Answer by the Minister of Government Services:

The following costs have been necessary to accommodate various ministries in the consolidated office building in Thunder Bay, since the completion of the building:

Repairs	\$ 3,300
Accommodation Alterations	13,900
Total	<u>\$17,200</u>

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Bounsall, E. J. (Windsor-Sandwich NDP)
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Kerrio, V. (Niagara Falls L)
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(Chatham-Kent PC)
Meen, Hon. A. K.; Minister of Revenue (York East PC)
Miller, Hon. F. S.; Minister of Health (Muskoka PC)
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Stephenson, Hon. B.; Minister of Labour (York Mills PC)
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Taylor, Hon. J. A.; Minister of Community and Social Services (Prince Edward-Lennox PC)
Warner, D. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)
Welch, Hon. R.; Minister of Culture and Recreation (Brock PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L.; Minister of Education (Scarborough North PC)



Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Thursday, May 27, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1976

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND RECREATION

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased at this time to submit the estimates of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

Mr. Worton: Carried.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Thank you very much.

As you will note, the amount to be voted is established there. Rather than taking up what is already a limited time with respect to opening remarks, I simply want to share with the members of the House my pleasure in having this particular responsibility and say how much I look forward to the exchange, the opportunity for which these estimates provide. Perhaps we would be better to hear those comments and respond to those questions and thereby be satisfied that, in fact, we are dealing with those matters which are of some interest and concern to the members of the committee.

Mr. Samis: First of all, Mr. Chairman, I want to say it is a pleasure to participate in this debate. It is my second opportunity to debate these issues and estimates with the minister, I want to congratulate the minister; I believe he has been in this particular job now for 18 months. Looking at his track performance, I think that almost establishes a record for him. It sometimes reminds me of Mickey Rooney; every time he gets married, he immediately assures people, "This is the last time; this one is going to really last."

Hon. Mr. Welch: What does that mean?

Mr. Samis: Don't read too much into it either now.

I realize the duties of this minister are many, because he is not just Minister of Culture and Recreation; he has a very serious, important and probably powerful job in this particular Legislature, namely the leader of the government party. When I see him scampering about here, he sort of reminds me of a Niagara version of Maury Wills. I realize that, as House leader, he has much less time to spend on the ministry than he had previous to last September. Of course, that means less

time for him to travel around the province, hand out cheques, get his picture in the paper and announce more goodies in every constituency he can find. But maybe being in the House so much is the best penance that the Premier (Mr. Davis) could have devised, considering his former previous errant ways in gross absenteeism from this chamber.

In all sincerity I want to congratulate the minister for the fine job he has done as House leader. As a member of the opposition who spent a very brief sojourn in the previous Legislature, I must say that the difference is very profound and much appreciated on this side. I think it makes for a better government and a much better parliamentary system. I am sure that all three House leaders must share the credit and, as a member of the official opposition, I want to pay tribute to the minister, because I think he deserves a large share of that credit.

Secondly, I want to welcome his new deputy minister. I think this particular gentleman has been a welcome addition to this ministry and his presence has resulted in a very obvious and, I think, much needed improvement. Among the various people I have talked to regarding this ministry, I have come across a very general feeling that there were certain specific problems surrounding some of the administrative practices exercised by his predecessor. I don't say that in a personal way or to get vindictive in any way, shape or form; it just struck me that in the variety of people I talked to, a number of people kept reiterating a certain unhappiness with the administrative style and policies. In view of the fact the minister was spending so much time on the road, I think that was very important in terms of the overall value, function and appreciation of this ministry. So I want to tell the deputy minister that I welcome the openness, the decentralization and the new spirit that he has introduced to the ministry. I think it is all for the better.

Before outlining my concerns and criticisms of the operations of the ministry—this is almost getting to sound like a mutual admiration society; this is the last page of that, don't worry.

I want to commend the hon. minister for two basic achievements as a minister, not as a House leader, over the past six months. The first one I think is very important. I congratulate him for being able to resist the power and lust of the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) in his quest to channel all or part of the funds of Wintario into consolidated revenue. I think for the sake of the ministry, **in the vast variety of programmes that it administers**, this was an extremely important accomplishment. I can only hope that the victory was not a transitory or pyrrhic one. Regardless whether it is or not, I congratulate the hon. minister upon this victory.

Secondly, I also congratulate the hon. minister for seemingly—and I emphasize that word “seemingly”—not implementing most of the recommendations of the Henderson report regarding this ministry. I want to make it very clear that we on this side reject virtually all of what Henderson had to say about this ministry and we regard his conclusions as invalid, ill founded and ill advised.

I won't go into any major dissertation on why I think Henderson is wrong, especially when he talks about the prohibition of any new programme initiatives or imposing a five per cent ceiling on funding increases. I just want to make it clear that we reject his criticisms, his calculations and his conclusions. Anybody who has anything to do with the cultural scene in Ontario surely must realize that for so many years there has been so much neglect. For anybody to suggest what Henderson did is just totally unacceptable to the cultural and recreational scene of this province.

There is one area, though, that I must say both disappoints and angers me. That's a decision to accept one of the Henderson report recommendations—namely, to postpone the expansion of OECA in northern Ontario and eastern Ontario, but particularly in the north. If there was any region in this province that needs OECA most, it's the north. If there is any region that has been culturally, socially and economically ignored by Queen's Park and southern Ontario, it's the north. The east is a good second—a close second.

If there is any doubt that this government discriminates against the north and the east in favour of the southern region, whether by design or some other method, this decision proves it. If there is a better way to illustrate the cultural disparities and regional disparities of this province, I don't know of any better way than this decision. By giving in to Henderson to save a mere \$2.9 million over six years, which works out to an average of

\$500,000 a year, you have created a class system in terms of educational television in this province: First class for the south, no class for the north and east.

I ask the hon. minister: Why cut here? Look at the human damage in those communities among the young people. Who suffers most from this particular decision? It's the children, the young people of the north, the future generation. You have openly admitted here in question period that that particular decision will cost this government \$900,000 merely to implement. You admit that cable TV is no substitute. You admit that many people in the north won't even be able to get cable of any sort. I really wonder why the hon. minister had to cut here.

We in the opposition regard that decision as a real low point of this ministry. It was a bad decision, pure and simple. Bad for the north, bad for the east and bad for Ontario. In looking at this ministry and realizing we have only four hours to examine the estimates and realizing other members will want to participate in the ensuing discussions, I decided to try to restrict my opening remarks to basic policy areas rather than attempt to cover the whole realm of this ministry.

The first one I want to speak about is the whole general field of policy within this ministry. What concerns me most is what seems to be a virtual lack of overall policy and direction. Sure, the ministry has lots of programmes. Sure, it's becoming pretty good at spending the taxpayers' money. Sure, it's keeping a high profile and convincing people that a ministry like this is nice to have. But where are we going. Do we know where we want to go? What are we really trying to do? What's our overall policy and goal? Objectives—do we have any? Or are we merely spending money on an ad hoc basis and responding to public demand or pressure without any clear idea of what we want for Ontario, for its people, for its future, for their future?

It is great to have all this money, but we in this Legislature will be judged by how wisely we spend that money today. We can do a tremendous amount for the people of Ontario to build a better social and cultural climate for future generations, to strengthen our heritage, to make the so-called “leisure” society accessible to people of all classes and all parts of this province, to give them opportunities to develop Ontario in ways their forefathers never dreamed of, to create a more humane, more egalitarian, more cultural society in the best sense of the word,

so that everybody in Ontario can truly enjoy the cultural, recreational and leisure fruits of our affluent society.

Mr. Nixon: Are you quoting Welch?

Mr. Samis: No, no; no quotes from Bob. Don't worry.

Mr. Nixon: Sounds like the minister's.

Mr. Samis: We can lay the foundation for much of this or we can muff it.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I got the quotes.

Mr. Samis: We can waste it, we can miss this golden opportunity. We can make Ontario a leader among English-speaking provinces in this field or we can fear to make the crucial decisions. We can draw back from the challenge and satisfy ourselves with the safe and the short-term.

The responsibility of leadership is to provide the people with leadership and direction; to provide them with some vision for the future; or at the very least to give them some goals, some objectives, some focus to work toward. That is what worries me most about this ministry.

There is no sense of direction, no sense of real policy objectives, no real sense of priorities, no sense of real coherence in what we are doing. Sure, Wintario is helping us to meet a lot of the short-term demands of our society, but the ministry has failed to provide any overall framework for these grants. It is not enough just to dole out money. The ministry must give culture in Ontario a sense of direction. It is not enough to initiate a new programme, without really determining the objectives. As David Silcox put it in the *Toronto Star*, and I quote:

Every Wintario decision changes the balance of cultural life in Ontario. Wintario is operating in a cultural policy vacuum, and policy is being established on an ad hoc basis, responding to each request. With insufficient expertise in cultural matters and only a few funding formulae for guides, Wintario is changing Ontario's cultural ecology without knowing or saying what it is. Needs and objectives appear not to be considered within the context of the whole province, and a sensible, staged programme of support cannot be mounted without an administration which knows the artistic needs of the province, and has the confidence of the arts community.

I might point out that this statement, Mr. Chairman, doesn't even take into consideration the whole problem of overall regional

disparities and needs, which is so important in the north and the east of this province. This is a crucial problem in itself and it requires defining goals, needs, objectives, and recognizing individual differences on a regional basis. I am sure the minister will admit that the needs and tastes of Toronto or London are very different from those of Cornwall, Timmins, Sudbury or Kirkland Lake.

Hon. Mr. Welch: St. Catharines.

Mr. Samis: Oh, St. Catharines is a case in itself, you know that.

It is not only people like David Silcox who wonder about our policies and priorities, or how they seem when they see such things as Pioneer Village raising its rates due to a lack of funding; when they see many of our libraries strapped for funds; when they see theatrical groups and people in the arts community staying off bankruptcy or financial ruin; when they see various cultural programmes in desperate need of assistance; when they see these things. Yet they read in the paper that we have spent only one-third of Wintario's funds and that the ministry is complaining that it can't keep up with the demand for money. They hear the difficulties faced by our film-makers, our publishers, our theatrical producers, and our struggling performers.

How long do we have to wait for this ministry to develop a meaningful policy to assist the film-makers in this province? You and your officials met with the producers, you have met with the distributors and the exhibitors. You have got the Bassett report outlining a clear course of action; you have had that for three years. You have had the Klopchic Report for two years. You have had the report from the select committee. You promised last year in the estimates you would come forward with a new policy, and yet what have we got?

I recall very vividly that exchange in the estimates—I am sure you do—when you were asked “When are you going to take a stand on matters like that?” And you answered, “We have only been a ministry for five months, but we will take a stand on it.”

Then I followed up and asked you: “But the provincial government and various ministries prior to yourself have not taken a stand on it.” Your answer was, “I can only be accountable for mine.”

And then I asked you, “I realize that, but can the people in the film industry look forward to some new policy in this year?” Your answer was: “Unquestionably, unquestionably.”

No wonder he received the Canadian "Cannes" Award from the Toronto Star. I'm sure the minister remembers, and I quote: "For managing to sit on your Canadian 'cans' for the entire year."

[8:15]

If you look at the importance of film as an essential ingredient in our mass culture and its tremendous importance in developing a distinctive Canadian identity and the capacity of Canadians to do the job if they're given a reasonable responsibility, then the minister's inertia becomes virtually indefensible. Why are we spending money in community colleges and universities teaching people film courses and how to become involved in the film industry? What are we spending money for if there are no jobs and no opportunities and this government isn't creating the opportunities for them?

It's ironic that you can take important action in this field without even having to spend any substantial sum of the taxpayers' money. The minister's inertia and lack of action renders his declarations of being a so-called "cultural nationalist" as hollow as a \$3 bill.

His track record in setting clear policy guidelines in the field of print and publishing would certainly shame any concerned person, much less a cultural nationalist. Two or three years ago, there was real hope that Ontario would take the lead in this country in ensuring that we didn't become a total cultural satellite of the United States in this field, whether it be periodicals, trade books, public libraries, or pocket books. I think it's extremely important that our heritage and our culture be duly transmitted and that we ensure that we do not become engulfed in the surrounding sea of American culture.

Why are we so timid in this field? Why do we continue to apply mere Band-Aids and fail to attack the real source of the problem? The minister can do more. He knows he can—it's not just a question of dollars and cents or grants that we're talking about.

In the field of historical conservation, the minister has taken some initiative and apparently it's worked out reasonably well. The people of Ontario are proud of their past and I'm sure they would support the minister if he took some decisive steps to protect our Canadian identity in the important fields of film and publishing. Why are we so hesitant? Why are we so afraid of new initiatives? I'm sure the public would support the minister if he were to take some.

Before moving on to Wintario, let me just end this particular session with a suggestion. Now that most provinces—not all—seem to have established ministers of culture and recreation, since Ontario is the key province in the English-speaking part of the country, surely it is time for this minister, as the leader of this particular ministry in the most important English-speaking province, to call and host a federal-provincial conference of ministers of culture and recreation, especially with your confrères in the west and east of the Ottawa River, to compare policies, goals, objectives and programmes.

The minister's counterpart in the Province of Quebec would love to meet him. In fact, he's envious of all the money he has to spend. Why don't we co-operate with other provinces and learn? To almost every province, this is a new experience. Why don't we share the experience so we have some degree of co-operation and harmony in what we're doing?

There are many other areas of policy administration that I'd like to discuss, Mr. Chairman, such as the arts support programme, the heritage programme, the library services programme, sports and fitness, and so on, but I'll wait till the specific estimates before we discuss those in detail.

My colleague, the member for Fort William (Mr. Angus), will be speaking later on the role of the ministry in delivery of services to municipalities of the province with particular reference to the very serious deterioration that's been brought about by the implementation of Wintario.

The ministry has failed in its mandate to develop a coherent public reaction delivery system in this province. The people who are suffering because of this are those who are not the super-organized athletes or the highly influential cultured person, but the everyday working man and woman of this province. They and their families are being deprived of the opportunities to utilize their leisure time in a way that would be more beneficial to them and to their families.

Speaking of Wintario, let me emphasize that I fully recognize the fact that this ministry is much more than Wintario. This particular aspect of the ministry gets, I think, an inordinate amount of publicity. But talking about Wintario, first of all let me again say that we supported its institution. The response from the people of Ontario, I think, vindicates the wisdom of that decision and may I compliment the people in the lottery corporation for the survey that they took. It proves, reasonably conclusively, that the old

maxim that lotteries are only a tax on the poor is no longer valid in Canada. It is a myth, and I'm glad to see that we have some facts and figures to prove that. Wintario overall has been good for the province and good for the people—maybe too good for the minister in that he's always looking for ways of spending all this money. Sometimes it lets him get carried away in the role of Santa Claus.

Mr. Peterson: He needs all the help he can get.

Mr. Samis: But let me express some of my concerns and some of the problems I think have developed in Wintario. The basic one is the whole question of distributorships. Last year in committee both opposition parties brought up the whole question of distributorships—who should get them, and why service clubs and public service organizations were excluded from the system from the very beginning.

I recall vividly your defence was, "We use the existing Olympic lottery distribution system. We want to get the show on the road quickly and this was the quickest way possible." Well, let me suggest in view of the court cases, the dismissals and the controversies, we've learned a few lessons from that first year of operation. One is that all distributorships, any vacancies, must be publicized. And we must invite all public groups, or individuals, and give them the opportunity to have one of these distributorships. You should allow senior citizens' clubs, service clubs, or any public organizations such as the Legion, to become distributors.

I would also point out some of the benefits of this would be that if there are profits accrued to these groups as organizations, most of them are service organizations. They would put the money back into the community in many ways—to serve the public, not to aid some businessman who is already well off, and just becomes even better off and doesn't recontribute any of that for public service.

The whole system of distributorships should be put up for public tender after the expiration of the Olympic lottery and its particular distribution system. The size and boundaries of the districts should be re-examined. The practices of some of your distributors should be reviewed—for example, allegedly forcing salesmen to borrow or mortgage to purchase tickets, and the whole question of how certain distributors were able to become distributors without receiving proper police clearance through the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

If there are to be future lotteries let me suggest that this is the ideal time to make the changes, because when the Olympic Lottery expires, that's the end of that particular term, and I think this would be the time to make the changes.

The institution of Loto-Canada by the federal government, I think, was contemptible and contemptuous; it was a unilateral decision and what it means is that the rest of Canada will be financing the financial follies and irresponsibilities of Jean Drapeau. To suggest that 82 per cent of the profits must go to the Province of Quebec to finance Drapeau's fiscal follies is outrageous.

When I read in the *Globe and Mail* this morning that we're spending \$60 million to build a parking garage, \$60 million to heat the Olympic stadium during its construction, \$14 million for a pedestrian overpass, \$8 million for a fountain, things like this just make it outrageous that anyone else should have to pay for that. If Mr. Drapeau wants to indulge in such glories and extravagances, he should pay for it, not the people of Ontario.

One thing I would point out is that if the ministry was serious about its declaration that it would want to get involved in medical research and occupational health problems, this federal lottery is depriving Ontario of that money. I couldn't think of a better cause than the two outlined by the minister, and we would support him on that.

Another concern about Wintario is the whole question of delays. The fact that at the end of the fiscal year only \$7 million was sent out out of a total of \$39 million is cause for considerable concern. The fact that as of today only \$32 million is committed out of a total of possibly over \$70 million indicates a basic problem. There are tremendous delays in processing of applications, so long and so slow that it only has to be classified as unacceptable. If the minister says they want to be sure about whom they're giving the money to, and to make sure that the grants are well-founded and well-suited, we would ask, how much of your ministry is being used for the Wintario applications and the whole processing process? How adequate is your staff? Is the pressure from Wintario interfering with the work and effectiveness of the ministry's staff? What's being done to streamline the whole administration process? What reforms does the minister propose to untangle the whole log-jam?

We realize there have been some changes made, some for the better. But the question is, is that good enough? Especially if we look

ahead to even heavier demands upon Wintario in this upcoming year. Possibly there's a role for the Ontario Arts Council to administer some of these funds. When we speak of moneys, we're also interested in knowing what exactly is being done with the money that's in reserve? How long will it take to deplete the net profit from the 1975-1976 fiscal year? Can we have some statement on the exact Ontario share of the Olympic lottery? How is that money being spent—Ontario's share of those profits?

Beyond the mere mechanics in the organization of Wintario, let me express a couple of major concerns about the impact and the effects of Wintario. The thing that would bother us most, I would think, is that the whole programme is being distributed without any clear-cut, coherent, cultural policies. It's nice to give out moneys; it's nice to ask people for suggestions; but it can create obvious imbalances. It can overlap or clash with the Arts Council's programme's, as you well know. I believe your deputy minister on March 11 was quoted as saying:

As a new programme, it's taking a disproportionate amount of our time and it's difficult for everyone to see yet that it will be supportive of our ongoing programmes rather than being counterproductive.

That's a fair statement and a fair concern. We'd like some answers from the minister.

We wonder where the planning is? What are the goals? Where are we leading to in the whole Wintario programme? The existence of Wintario can create special burdens on local governments in terms of operating costs. It's nice to grant money for an arena, a cultural centre, a sports facility, but since it is a one-shot grant, obviously the burden of maintenance and operation falls upon the municipality, the local government. How does this tie in with their own spending priorities; their own revenue situation? It can even create imbalances with existing ministry programmes or activities, such as sports and fitness and the whole equipment programme. It can enrich amateur cultural groups at the expense of professional groups in the arts, especially performing groups.

I would suggest to the minister that in view of the overwhelming success of the lottery, the minister should reassess his opposition to the principle of allowing professional theatrical groups and companies to receive Wintario funds. I feel that in view of the absence of any real cultural policy, in view of the needs of the professional groups, and with the tremendous amount of money

that he now has available in Wintario, the time has come to change the ground rules of Wintario. Professional groups deserve a share of the funds.

You can do it in a variety of ways. You can allot a fixed percentage of the net of Wintario to professional arts groups and performing groups. You can set aside a fixed sum—for example \$5 million—and have the Arts Council administer it in the fairest way, which would probably cause you the least hassle and probably would be most satisfactory to people in the arts community. You could allow them equal funding with amateur groups. There's a variety of means that you could follow.

I would suggest that a paper written for the Canadian Conference on the Arts by Joan Horseman makes a lot of sense, and should be considered by this particular ministry. She said:

Differences in the nature of professional/amateur arts activities suggests several principles. To adequately promote development both to professional and amateur arts, decision-makers must understand and sympathize with the goals and needs which exist at each level. People working at the professional level aspire to excellence. People who participate as amateurs seek enjoyment and self-satisfaction. Adequate funds must be made available for both levels.

Few professional arts activities are financially viable. The professional artist still works in a field which offers precarious work opportunities, few economic rewards and little social status or recognition. Government, corporate and private support is needed to sustain even the limited number of jobs which exist in the arts today. Government support is a prerequisite to the very existence of professional activities which can aspire to excellence.

Without the professional level, there would be few activities capable of stimulating the amateur's excitement, imagination and desire to explore further into the nature of his own creativity. Without the professional, the amateur can rarely progress beyond a very elementary stage, simply because there are no models of excellence and relatively few people can import their knowledge, skills and enthusiasm. Amateur growth cannot proceed without the stimulus generated by professional development.

That is something I think the minister would be well advised to consider.

Another thing that concerns us on this side is the whole question of the grants. What are the criteria? How real, how precise, how well-defined are the guidelines for eligibility as to who is getting the money? I think there is a great need to specify the criteria in much greater detail, with much greater precision than presently exists.

[8:30]

Another role the minister might consider is that, in view of the role being placed upon the municipalities by Wintario to support many of the projects being financed from Wintario, he should have much closer liaison with them and possibly give consideration to affording grants to municipalities for continuing and co-ordinating their own cultural recreational programmes with the implied role involved in many Wintario grants.

We also have some concern about the principles of the one-shot idea. We understand the minister's concern about creating unnecessary dependence. Some of the problems connected with LIP and OFY are remembered by all members of this House, but we wonder about the whole concept—whether there may not be some other way of doing it beyond a black-and-white, either one-shot or continuing, basis.

Another matter that concerns me, Mr. Chairman, is regional disparity. As an economic development, regional disparities are a constant problem in cultural development especially in the north and in the east. We are glad to see that the ministry did take this into account by using a different formula for capital grants in the north and in the east. But I would ask the minister to consider that it can be extremely difficult to raise money for cultural projects in a community that faces severe economic problems. It may not be so difficult in Kitchener or London, which are very affluent communities for raising money from the private sector, especially when they have corporate entities who have their headquarters located there.

An hon. member: They are all Liberals, too.

Mr. Samis: But it is difficult if you have a community—

Mr. Nixon: They work for their money.

Mr. Samis: —regardless of their politics, where you depend on one or two industries. If one of those industries, for example, such as my own community, has been on strike for six months, and the other basic industry is in a severe economic recession, then where

does the money come from for cultural groups to raise the money? It's nice to say that they should go to the private sector, but if the private sector has a less than admirable record of participating in the first place—

Mr. Nixon: In Kitchener, all the cultural groups get their money out of Oktoberfest.

Mr. Samis: —and if the industries are in a state of depression, and if they are short of capital, then obviously you are just reinforcing the regional disparities.

I would ask that the minister give some special consideration to communities such as this. The federal government does make allowances in its UIC programme, calculated on a regional basis for benefits and special conditions allowed.

Mr. Nixon: A lot of help to Cornwall—\$14 million to Cornwall.

Mr. Samis: The question is, why can't we do something of the same sort for the depressed areas of Ontario? Not Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, but the depressed, the slow-growth areas. If we don't take into consideration those special problems in the north and in the east, beyond what has already been done, I would suggest that rich southern Ontario will get even richer, and richer culturally, while the north and the east will lag even further behind and the cultural disparities will grow even worse.

Another point we would consider, Mr. Chairman, is that the whole question of the administration of grants be kept neutral. So far the track record in this has been reasonably good. I would point out one particular instance, though, that did cause some concern. That was on Jan. 8—the announcement of a Wintario grant, datelined Toronto:

A pair of Wintario grants totalling \$271,000 has been made to Brockville community centre, auditorium and public library, Management Board Chairman James Auld said today.

This is the only case of grants being announced where I noticed another cabinet minister made the announcement in his home riding. I would ask the minister for an explanation why that particular announcement was made.

Mr. Davidson: Political, what else?

Mr. Samis: There is one further concern I should point out, and I think the minister has received a letter from my colleague from Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr) about a particular incident there, that I think deserves an

answer—especially if we don't have time to get to this in the estimates. This is a case of a young man who had won a Wintario prize of \$1,000. This young man, unfortunately, was disabled; receiving a disabled person's allowance. I quote:

To his great surprise and delight he found himself holding a \$1,000 winning ticket. Unfortunately, his excitement was short-lived. He was told that his disabled person's allowance was to be suspended and he would have to live on the \$1,000 at the same rate as if he were receiving his DPA.

He was told that at the end of that time he would be eligible for DPA again. I think if we are going to advertise prizes, I think we should tell certain people who are affected in that particular way what the consequences might be, or else clear that up so they can enjoy the extent of the prizes as most other people do. I think the member for Windsor-Riverside was well spoken in what he did say in this particular letter.

In summary, there is a serious policy vacuum. There seems to be little or no real policy planning on overall goals and objectives. We are supporting and funding cultural and recreational activities without any real direction, sense of purpose or clear objectives. It is not enough merely to respond to public wants and desires. This government must provide leadership and vision to promote the long-term goals.

While Wintario is funded from the grassroots, we must look out and beyond the immediate and the most obvious. The ministry is now 18 months old. It is time they decided where they want to go and what they want to do. They got the ship out of drydock. They proved it could float. They have got themselves a crew and now the question is, where are we going?

Mr. Ferrier: Wonderful speech.

Mr. Kerrio: At the outset I would like to suggest that I am not going to follow the lead of the member for Cornwall—

Mr. Ferrier: You couldn't.

Mr. Kerrio: —and pay tribute to the hon. minister from Brock—

Mr. Nixon: You know him better.

Mr. Kerrio: —because I don't think too many things have been done right in that ministry. But I would congratulate him on his appointment and suggest that his House leadership has been very excellent, along

with that of the members of the other parties. The Legislature would seem to be flowing smoothly; we have much more information available to the members and in this way feel we can function to a much better degree.

In my opening remarks, rather than accepting an increase for this ministry I would suggest, of all the ministries that so far have had estimates before this Legislature, if we are going to practise restraints in our economy, this ministry above all others should be able to carry on without any budget increase whatsoever. While those ministries in the community and social services field have very limited funding increases, I should think, if there were priorities by this government, this particular ministry could function without an increase. Instead, this ministry has the unusual problem of what to do with excess Wintario funds. With 17 to 20 per cent for administration costs, we could consider how much more revenue Wintario could generate if it was much more efficient. I will deal with this in detail later on.

There seems to be a great deal of selling done these days on the ministry's expenditures in the areas of arenas and community projects, and I wonder if we should be selling these projects to the public. I should think we should initiate more real desire at the community level and show real purpose and interest at that level in order to put ministry moneys in these areas. We would recommend as another restraint a greater return to volunteer work in many aspects of this ministry, particularly in sports and fitness. I would like to see a return on a community basis to more involvement by service clubs and people genuinely interested in the young people of this country. You will excuse me, Mr. Chairman, if I go on quite rapidly as it is my intention to be very brief in my opening remarks to give more time to the other members who will participate in this debate from my caucus.

The original purpose of the Ontario Educational Communications Authority seems to be abused. I think this particular area in the ministry has been straying from its educational base in programming. I feel this has been brought about as a result of the station's broadcasting mainly in the Toronto area and therefore in competition with the private stations for our urban audience. We therefore regret the cabinet decision last fall to postpone indefinitely the expansion of OECA into northern and eastern Ontario since these areas do not have ready access to universities, libraries, theatres and cultural institutions. We are depriving the peo-

ple who need them most of the education and cultural advantages of OECA. In fact, I feel the implementation of that network was done backwards and should have started in northern and eastern Ontario. I'll be dealing with OECA on these points later because I think it's a very important aspect of our culture and recreation ministry.

I'd also like to comment and suggest that it's a strange priority that this government has when it is going to devote the same number of hours to education as to culture and recreation when one ministry accounts for some 17 per cent of the budget of this province, while the other accounts for one per cent. Health, almost a third of our budget, gets some seven hours for debate. We've been sitting in committee for untold hours in some other areas. I suggest to you that shows a complete lack of priorities on the part of this government.

In this particular ministry, I think we're attempting to be all things to all people. It's about time the people in the culture and recreation aspects of our society were brought more into focus, into the particular areas that they're interested in and the particular degree that we would then fund them from the coffers of this province.

I would point out a couple of very obvious errors in the type of administration that we have in this ministry in regard to some specific areas. Because of the fact that with some four hours to go through all the votes in this particular budget, time is of the essence. I would suggest that a great amount of money has been turned over to the Arts Council of Ontario, which in turn would then redistribute grants. In particular, I would name one—Theatre Ontario in Toronto. With some \$88,000 being given to this particular theatre, one of the executive directors has written in the following manner:

More adequate media coverage of the achievements of Canadian artists and technical personnel should be made available and greater financial rewards. Perhaps Theatre Ontario could urge the Ontario government to have its agencies undertake a government-sponsored PR campaign on behalf of the arts, to teach Canadians the value of non-material goods.

This just substantiates my feeling, that we're trying to be all things to all people. As well as funding some of these worthwhile things, we're going to have to have PR people to make the rest of the province aware of what's happening in the ministry.

But be that as it may, I would just make a few comments in regards to Wintario. It's

been my private feeling from the very first day I stood in this Legislature that Wintario funds should not, in fact, be used in a frivolous way. Many members of this House stood before Mr. Speaker and suggested that all sides of the House supported this particular feeling. But I would make one comment I would think would be very valid. I would suggest to you, Mr. Minister, that all members on all sides of the House supported Wintario, before we started closing hospitals. I think it's time to reconsider our priorities and get our house in order.

I would make one comment in passing, and these were remarks by the Treasurer to the Belleville Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, May 13, 1976. These are his remarks and I hope the member for Cornwall is listening.

Mr. Samis: He is.

Mr. Kerrio: He said:

The official opposition would like to see Wintario funds used outside the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. I would like to go even further and see Wintario receipts included with consolidated revenues. That, however, is the Treasurer's view, and at present the greater wisdom of my colleagues has determined the existing arrangement.

I find it difficult to see the Treasurer in that role of humility, but those are the remarks he made.

[8:45]

In passing, I would suggest that the time allotted, as I said before, is crucial. With those remarks, I thank you very much.

Mr. Ferrier: Does the minister support the Treasurer on that or is he against it?

Hon. Mr. Welch: It is my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that the member for Fort William had some general observations. Perhaps he might make them now, too, before I respond.

Mr. Nixon: That's out of order.

Mr. Samis: No, that is on the first vote.

Mr. Chairman: It has been the practice in committee that the two leadoffs for the opposition who have particular responsibilities for this ministry will make their leadoff remarks, whereupon the minister himself might choose to respond to them. Then we'll get into the specific votes.

Mr. Peterson: Don't let him weasel out, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry, I interpreted it on the basis of what the member for Cornwall said, that the remarks from the member for Fort William were of a general nature. If they are related to a particular vote we'll deal with them at that time.

Mr. Nixon: We'll probably hear them anyway

Hon. Mr. Welch: I want to respond briefly to the comments made both by the member for Cornwall and the member for Niagara Falls as best I can. Perhaps since it's the most recent contribution I might start with the member for Niagara Falls first.

Most of his remarks were principally directed to the question of Wintario, which is the last item in the estimate book and to which we will be no doubt giving some attention before these estimates are completed. I think it's fair enough to say there is a basic difference of opinion between the member for Niagara Falls and myself on this whole question of Wintario. Since Wintario was also the subject matter of a comment from the member for Cornwall, I think it would be wise to have on the record what we in the government consider to be some very important principles with respect to the use of these funds which are not tax revenues but voluntary funds made available because of the operation of the game.

By virtue of the Act establishing the lottery corporation itself—supported by all political parties at that time, notwithstanding what the situation may be now—section 9 of the Ontario Lottery Corp. Act is very specific with respect to the use to which those proceeds coming from those playing that particular game are to be put—namely for sports, fitness, recreation and culture.

There are certain approaches to this. It's of some interest since the member for Niagara Falls has supported a number of applications from his riding from people who have made applications to Wintario, and also because of the fact that the Niagara Falls public library has benefited from Wintario, the Niagara region library system has benefited from Wintario, the Niagara Falls peewee hockey tournament committee has benefited, and a number of other organizations. I would assume the member for Niagara Falls would not consider the activities of those particular groups frivolous. If he does, no doubt he would like to go home and tell those people that they are engaged in very frivolous activities.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Welch: There is a great expression about sucking and whistling at the same time and we've had a pretty good display of that from the member for Niagara Falls.

Mr. Ruston: You are doing that. There is one I would like to read to you right here.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The point is that the use to which Wintario funds were to be placed was quite clearly understood. The Act of the Legislature is quite clear in that regard.

Mr. Haggerty: He is asking you to change it.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I would like to share with you what I consider to be some very important principles which govern us insofar as the disbursement of these funds is concerned, all as initiatives from the communities where the applications come from. All of these people, I am sure, are very fine people, who are engaged in many activities which contribute a great deal to the lifestyle of these various communities. I would be the last one in this House to say that—

Mr. Nixon: You are getting more like John Yaremko every day. All you need is a flag on your car.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —anyone who is engaged in these committees or this type of activity is engaged in frivolous activity. They mean a great deal to the community life in these areas. There isn't a member sitting in this Legislature today who, for reasons best known to himself, has not supported the applications that have come from these particular groups. If you have any conviction at all, you should refuse to sign their applications and tell them you think the money should go for something else. No doubt we'll see some evidence of that coming from Niagara Falls.

Mr. Cassidy: In a Tory riding, is that right?

Mr. Ferrier: Send it up to our area.

Mr. Nixon: You are asking us for \$36 million in addition to the \$99 million you have already got.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The principles of Wintario are these: I think they are very important to know and I would welcome a discussion in this House about them because after all, the lottery is only about a year old. The first lottery was held on May 15 last year. The success of the game speaks for itself.

The revenues are here for the purposes set out in the statute.

We have tried to the best of our ability—and I might say under a considerable handicap with respect to staff because we've been very cautious not to increase the number of people who are engaged in this activity. As the member for Cornwall so correctly states, it has placed a great strain on the ministry because of the additional work which the processing of these applications has brought about. I would hope as we talk about processing these applications and the time that it takes, that there might be some sympathetic approach to improving that situation by providing some assistance to already overburdened people.

I repeat that we're not talking about tax revenues here—that this item is in these estimates at the insistence of this minister only to provide an opportunity for discussion. As I say now for the third time, not five cents of this money is tax revenue. It is voluntary funds made available by those who choose to engage in this particular activity every other Thursday.

Mr. Nixon: And under the control of this Legislature, you would say.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

Mr. Nixon: He is being provocative.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The principles of Wintario as we attempt to interpret them are very briefly these: First of all, Wintario funds are limited to the support of physical fitness, sports, recreational and cultural activities and facilities in Ontario.

Second is what we call the share principle—that Wintario projects are intended to respond to community-supported initiatives—and that's important—as evidenced by locally raised, private contributions of money, effort and other resources. The member for Cornwall quite rightly points out that although he doesn't question the share principle, there comes some question as to the amount of that particular share—

Mr. Nixon: What is this?

Mr. Ruston: Buddy-buddy week.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —and I would like to talk about that when we get to that particular point.

Another principle which is very important is the non-substitution of taxes. Wintario funds, as you know, are intended to enhance our capacity to promote and to encourage

cultural and recreational objectives and they're not intended to replace and they're not intended to relieve the responsibility of on-going government programmes in this field. They are not a substitution for tax support. The non-dependency principle is another very important one and I'm sure the member for Niagara Falls will know something about this, on the basis of the concern that many people expressed in former programmes at the federal level known as LIP and OFY. It is important that we would respond to this.

Mr. Nixon: You are against those? If the minister is against those programmes, let him stand up and say so because there are a lot of sincere people working in those programmes—all good people back in St. Catharines—

Hon. Mr. Welch: The projects funded by Wintario must demonstrate the existence of support for any ongoing cost from sources other than Wintario.

Then there is the non-profit principle. Wintario grants are intended for projects that have brought public good and are thereby excluded from situations which might loosely be characterized as private gain.

Finally there is the principle of accessibility—that the benefits of Wintario supported projects are intended to be available to the general public.

We've tried quite honestly in the ministry, as we are charged with this responsibility by the legislation, to examine and to process applications against the background of those principles. I might say to the member for Niagara Falls, I don't ignore the difficulty that there must be in some places as far as public perception is concerned. This is a time when legitimate restraints are being imposed on programmes. The rate of acceleration that there would appear to be in this particular source of revenue makes it seem to be an unlimited resource — limited only by the amount of money which is provided by those who play the game.

But I would remind the hon. member, and I say this without apology, to take a look at this ministry. Take a look at the very small percentage of the budget of this government which is allocated to the field of culture and recreation. Take a look at what happened to \$40 million or \$50 million which goes into the consolidated revenue fund to go out according to some other criteria with respect to overall government spending as related to tax sources.

Many people have come to me, as I am sure they have come to the hon. member,

and raised some questions about health and other related fields. I am sure the entire net proceeds of Wintario would, in fact, go for 2½ days to operate the Ministry of Health. Here we have some visible way of doing something—

Mr. Nixon: No, but it would more than be sufficient to operate the hospitals that you are intending to close. It would help them for 10 years.

Mr. Leluk: No way.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —of doing something in a very constructive way to support the type of projects that the member from Brant and the member for Niagara Falls had been so enthusiastic to attach their signatures to as the application forms come in.

I leave it ultimately to the assessments of the communities of this province which have, in fact, been very enthusiastic in making their submissions with respect to the general guidelines which govern us insofar as the disbursement of these funds is concerned.

I want to talk very briefly as well to the member for Niagara Falls who talks in terms of the general direction as to future direction of this. If, in fact, there are some aspects of these principles which he feels should be changed, I would be very glad when we get to that particular part of the vote to have an exchange with him with respect to these ideas. There is no question in my mind. I think we have 200 or 250 applications a week. There is little wonder that we are falling a bit behind with respect to the processing of these in order to satisfy ourselves that there is some consistency with the principles that are there.

In making some reference to the comments very briefly made by the member for Cornwall, I would want to point out that I have appreciated his comments with respect to the recommendations in the Henderson report. I would think that, as I listened to the member for Niagara Falls, he no doubt agrees with the Henderson report that we should simply turn over the entire proceeds of Wintario to finance the ministry and we would not have any particular extra resources to do some of those special things which obviously mean so much to so many other communities in this particular province.

Both the member for Cornwall and the member for Niagara Falls do underline their concern with respect to the postponement of the expansion of the facilities of the Ontario Education Communications Authority. It was a very regrettable decision. It was a decision

that had to be taken in the light of the overall government restraint programme. It was a postponement or a deferment, not a cancellation.

Indeed, because of some very successful negotiations that have been carried on over the past several months, we have been able to recover a great deal of the moneys which otherwise would not have produced any positive results in having the microwave system itself extended—notwithstanding the point, and I don't hide the point or the concern expressed by the member for Cornwall, that ultimately it will be available in the interim only as a cable service. But I would remind him, as I would remind myself in analysing the situation, that certainly faced with the decision of this government to defer or postpone that extension, we were able to salvage those dollars in order to put the system in place although not, of course, ultimately ending up at the moment with a full broadcast system.

Mr. Martel: Those who need it most won't have it.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I want to point out, however—and I don't deny the limitations which cable imposes; no one is attempting to deny that—I am only pointing out that as a result of these negotiations—

Mr. Hall: Will the chairman please simmer down?

Hon. Mr. Welch: —the microwave system will be in place and there will be some opportunities.

The question of accessibility isn't restricted only to the extension. Of course, as far as the school systems are concerned, no matter where they are, the availability of our programming is there and not dependent on the broadcast system. The school system itself can use it. So it's not as if the schools in these areas don't have access to our programmes, and certainly, of course, the private broadcasting stations have access to these programmes to the extent that programming time is available.

[9:00]

Mr. Martel: The most deprived will continue to be deprived.

Hon. Mr. Welch: This isn't the whole area. In fact, wasn't it the member for Niagara Falls who said that if everything had been equal with respect to the availability of the hardware, if that's the proper use at the time,

perhaps the whole authority should have been started in the north and then expanded southward?

I remind you, however, that by the very nature of the Act which established the authority, it had to be by a separate commission. A separate commission that would make these decisions was a condition of getting the licensing from the federal authority. So the authority itself, in taking all the facts into consideration—the availability in this part of the province; the access, as the chairman of that board explained to the member for Timmins and others of the delegation; the availability—couldn't ultimately decide in favour of establishing itself elsewhere. Indeed, to put it more positively, it found it necessary to start it here because of the availability of the hardware and the advantages that there were to getting started in this particular part of the province.

I think he was very frank in that exchange at that meeting to admit that, perhaps, if the availability or access to this type of equipment was equal in all parts of the province, there may well have been a decision to have started the whole operation elsewhere in the province.

Mr. Martel: They don't have the authority here now.

Mr. Davidson: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Point of order, the hon. member for Cambridge.

Mr. Davidson: If I may, Mr. Chairman, could I ask the minister to respond to the two prime speakers and not respond to those who are sitting in their seats?

Mr. Chairman: That's not a point of order. The hon. minister can resume his comments.

Mr. Good: It certainly is a point of order.

Mr. Davidson: If I may, Mr. Chairman, I believe it is a point of order.

Mr. Chairman: You may challenge the ruling of the Chair if you wish, but the minister may respond in any way he chooses.

Mr. Davidson: I certainly don't feel that I should have to challenge the Chair, and I will sit down if he so directs me to. I will point out, however, that the minister is responding to people who have been sitting in their seats and have not yet been recognized. I would ask him to respond to those who have spoken on behalf of their parties,

and are recognized as having spoken on behalf of their parties.

Mr. Chairman: It may be a lot easier for the minister to respond if he has fewer interjections. The hon. minister might continue.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I thought I was, in fact, responding to the comments made by the hon. member for Cornwall and the hon. member for Niagara Falls. The member for Cornwall did raise the question, his fourth point, with respect to OECA, and I was talking to that, and I was sort of taking into account the concern of other members from the north who have, in fact, shared with me their concern with respect to that subject.

The member for Cornwall also raises, and I think very legitimately, some question as to overall policy goals and objectives of the ministry. He will notice vote 2801, item 3, the policy division. I must point out that during the last 18 months in this ministry, the question of overall direction and policy goals has been of considerable interest to me. The Legislature, in establishing this ministry, in section 6 of our Act, sets out the functions of the ministry in a fairly clear way when it states that:

It is the function of the ministry to advance and encourage responsible citizenship through the process of cultural and recreational development, including (a) preserving and maintaining the cultural heritage of residents of Ontario with full recognition of their diverse traditions and backgrounds; and (b) promoting access to the benefits of citizenship and active involvement in the cultural and recreational life of the province; and (c) stimulating the development of new forms of cultural expression and promoting the concept of individual and community excellence.

In addition to the functions of the ministry mentioned, which I've just established, I'm to perform such functions and duties in addition to those as are assigned by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

I think it is important to know that this government didn't discover culture and recreation just 18 months ago, that in other ministries many of the component parts of this new ministry were at work—discharging their responsibilities there, developing an approach to those particular responsibilities in a fairly clear way.

I have shared with the cultural and sports and recreational community some of the philosophical background of government in-

volvement in this area, underlying the fact that in our system of government and in this type of jurisdiction you really don't look to government to be treating these things from that directed point of view, but rather you see the role of government as being more supportive. Indeed you are relying to a large extent on initiatives from the community and from individuals in this area, and recognizing the very delicate position that governments must play.

It was this party in government some years ago that saw the wisdom of developing an approach to the arts community, by itself establishing the Arts Council, to be at arm's length from government, to leave a lot of the so-called judgement calls and the value assessment to that council by simply transferring funds—which you will be asked to do in these estimates—to the Arts Council and leaving to it that type of judgement, to remove the political arm to that extent.

I think it was just in the last couple of weeks we received what has been referred to as "Sport plan". It is a very major initiative, insofar as sports are concerned, to review policy, to impart some input from the public that we serve. Indeed, we are going to address ourselves to the implications of "Sport plan," and what the role of government should be there.

I think you could see something of our philosophy and our principles in our dealings with the sports-governing bodies, leaving to the sports-governing bodies the administrative and regulatory responsibility; ours being more of financial support rather than direction.

Not long after I became minister we asked Paul Shaffer, formerly of York University, to engage in a study with respect to the whole area of cultural policy. Within the last few days, I received that report, and we are now going to work on that as well.

We have opportunities, as the hon. members know, to come into contact with a number of agencies and individuals with whom we work on a day-to-day basis—the Canadian Conference for the Arts and others—with whom we have shared some of our thinking, and have invited their involvement as well. I am interested in the comments that have been made with respect to what the role of government in the arts and in the sports area should ultimately be, and other directions in which we might go.

The hon. member for Cornwall raises again quite properly this question of the film policy. I would like to think that I, too, am a cultural nationalist; I don't apologize for that either.

Mr. Samis: You didn't last year.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Well, I like to think I am a responsible cultural nationalist. I would point out I have been at a number of meetings with respect to those engaged in the film. I must say that there doesn't appear to be any great consensus among those who are involved in this industry.

Just recently, we had meetings with federal officials in preparation for a meeting I am looking forward to having with the Secretary of State—because I like to think that ultimately we would have an overall national policy in this regard, and that we would play our part within the framework of our responsibilities.

Mr. Samis: They changed gears three times in the last few years.

Mr. Nixon: Lots of federal money going into films.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I am encouraged, I think the Secretary of State has a very legitimate interest in this field as well. He quite properly points out that there are some jurisdictional matters here too, which we recognized a year ago in this House by amending the Theatres Act with respect to the matter of quota, if in fact that is to be the solution.

Mr. Cassidy: You didn't do anything with it, though.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Well, no, I said the Act was amended to provide that vehicle if in fact ultimately we decide that is the vehicle.

Mr. Cassidy: But you haven't moved.

Hon. Mr. Welch: As you know, under the leadership of the Secretary of State, two of the big chains voluntarily impose on themselves some quota.

Mr. Samis: You know he is backtracking on that one.

Hon. Mr. Welch: However, I am hopeful that eventually I will be able to work out some policy in this regard that will be acceptable, and I look forward to the meetings and the talks I will have with the Secretary of State to see what we might do as a province in playing our role in the development of an overall policy.

I apologize; I've taken a great deal of time. There are other matters that were raised. It may be more appropriate that we direct ourselves to these when the various votes come up.

I am concerned, because the hon. member for Cornwall has heard the principles of Wintario, that there still seems to be this misunderstanding with respect to the relationship of professionals in making application to Wintario. There is no such distinction, as you can see. There was no division between professionals or amateurs; these are the principles. We work very closely with the arts council and we work very closely with all of the agencies for which we have some responsibility of accountability. Indeed, we recognize Wintario as a very powerful resource that should be decentralized, not centralized, and should be seen as an opportunity for our various divisions and our various agencies to more adequately fulfil their mandate and to do so consistent with the principles here.

Perhaps with those general remarks, Mr. Chairman, we might turn now to the specific votes, and I'll be very happy to answer any questions.

On vote 2801:

Mr. Chairman: Vote 2802, main office.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Chairman, first of all, could I just mention that I've talked to my colleague from Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio), and we are very concerned because we have a very short period of time. We have seven votes that we would like to get through reasonably rapidly, but we don't want to omit the seventh vote, which obviously will consume a fair amount of time. To that end, I mentioned to the minister before the beginning of this session that on each vote I would ask that he provide statistics on each office as to the number of salaried staff and number of people on contract. Rather than repeat that question four or five times, I would ask that he provide that information.

I would like to ask some questions on the fifth item, but I have one question initially on the first item and then I'll sit down if my colleague from Niagara Falls wants to ask any questions. Can the minister confirm that in the main office—and I don't want to open up the can of worms of Wintario; I'll just ask one question and leave it at that, because it's an administrative question—it is the administrative policy that when grants are issued and approval is given, that he signs the letters notifying the applicant of such, but when a refusal is announced he has his deputy notify the applicant of such? Is that the policy, and why is it done that way?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes, it is the policy, and the reason that these refusals are sent out that way, signed by the deputy, is that it

provides the applicant who hasn't been successful with the opportunity then to appeal to the minister. It does provide this further opportunity for further review if someone feels that the reasons given for the refusal are not satisfactory.

May I point out that I was very anxious, when we developed the procedures insofar as Wintario was concerned, knowing that there would be a number of appeals on the part of those who weren't successful, that it was very important to share with the unsuccessful applicant the reason why his application was being turned down. In fact, that's one of the reasons that we ran into some of the delays. But, quite briefly, the answers to your questions are as I have given them.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Chairman, could I ask if the minister would provide the information I requested for each of those items before we move on to the member for Niagara Falls? I'll wait for the fifth item myself.

Hon. Mr. Welch: As far as vote 2801 is concerned, the regular complement is 136 and the contract complement is 23.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know at the outset if the ministry has received any funds over the past year by way of Management Board orders or otherwise that are not recorded in the estimate books.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Do you mean for the last fiscal year?

Mr. Kerrio: Yes, or in the present fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman: Actually, in these votes we're talking about the expenditures for 1976-1977, rather than a previous year.
[9:15]

Hon. Mr. Welch: The answer for the current year is no.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Is there anything on items 1, 2, 3 or 4 of vote 2801? If not, the hon. member for Cornwall on item 5.

Mr. Samis: Just before that, Mr. Chairman, I'd like the information for vote 2802, salaries and wages; votes 3 and 4—

Hon. Mr. Welch: Would you like me to go through the whole thing now?

Mr. Samis: Yes, that's why I asked. Could you go through the whole thing rather than do it individually?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I'm sorry.

Mr. Samis: It will speed it up.

Hon. Mr. Welch: If I might give you then: Vote 2801 is 136 and 23, as I've just given you; vote 2802 is 93 and 56; vote 2803 totals are 209 and 60; vote 2804 is 76 and 47; vote 2805 is 18 and six; vote 2806 is 62 and four; and 2807 is zero complement but 12 contracts. That totals, if everything works well, 591 complement and 206 contracts

Mr. Samis: Did you say 206?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes, 206.

Mr. Samis: Thank you. Could I ask, it might be related to item 2 before we get on to 5, if the minister could answer my query about a statement on Olympic revenue?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The deposits, in response to the hon. member for Cornwall, the Olympic lottery account deposit to March 31, 1976, totals \$7,470,384.

Mr. Samis: Four hundred and seventy thousand?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Seven, four, seven, zero, three, eight, four.

Mr. Samis: Thank you.

Could I get back to item 5 now, Mr. Chairman? I did bring up the matter in my opening remarks and I think it comes under this item. It is the question of field services. It seems as if there is some concern within the ministry, as the minister, I'm sure, is very well aware, as to how the regional operations of your field offices are actually being used. I wish you could clarify to what extent your ministry staff is being used to process Wintario applications and assess them, versus carrying on their regular duties. Can you give any percentage breakdown and could you comment on the statement by your deputy on March 11 of this year, admitting there is a serious problem and saying, "It is taking a disproportionate amount of our time"? Could you give us some breakdown, please?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think the way to approach this is related to how we were first viewing the responsibility we had with respect to Wintario. Indeed, when we started our operation with a more centralized approach and then sending out the applications, I would think it would be quite understandable that a number of our people, not just the field staff but the whole ministry, saw this as some new and extra responsibility.

What we've been attempting to do for the last several months was, rather than seeing it in this light, seeing it more as a

part of the ministry from a decentralized point of view—seeing what, in fact, we could do, as I mentioned in my opening remarks following your presentation, with these extra resources in helping to fulfil the mandate which was ours.

I'd be the first to say that this has put a great deal of pressure on all of our staff, who had plenty to do in their particular areas of responsibility. In order to make this work and to verify applications, to make sure they were consistent with a number of things that were going on in those particular communities, we have wanted to involve our staff more closely in this work, particularly the field people. It would be hard for me to use percentage terms but, certainly, there may be those who could.

It is certainly my understanding that we could use far more field people to do this work. There is no question about it. I'm satisfied, in talking to our regional managers, in talking to our field staff that perhaps things are becoming that much more understandable as they are getting some appreciation of Wintario in this more decentralized approach. But I would venture to say that we could certainly almost double our field staff and find plenty for them to do.

What we did, of course, too, when the new ministry was established, we turned most of our field people into generals where in some other responsibilities they had a more specialistic responsibility. And we've got our field staff now, I would venture to say, spending a quarter to half of their time on the average doing something with respect to responding to all of these Wintario applications. Of course, that would vary from region to region. We are trying to plug in some of the extra staff from the Wintario office to be of some assistance here.

Mr. Samis: I take it then the average range is somewhere from a quarter to a half at the present. Could you give us any indication—this will be my final question, Mr. Chairman—if there has been any evolution of those portions in the past few months that remained relatively the same as—There have been a few changes administratively, obviously, in your office and in the ministry since the deputy minister took over. Has there been any evolution of those proportions in the allotment of work assigned these people vis-à-vis Wintario and regular duties?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Of course, it would vary from region to region, depending on the ingenuity of people in different parts of the province to generate applications. But I

think that the point that I really want to make, and I hope that you'd understand it this way, is that I think eventually it will be very difficult for people really to draw lines so far as the work conditions are concerned. I think because of Wintario our field people are getting to meet an increasingly large number of people who are at work in the communities in these particular areas. And it is taking a great deal of their time, as they are giving some consideration to these particular applications, and I suppose sheer volume itself is on the increase.

There is no question that we are getting more and more applications for Wintario, which must quite obviously be putting that much more pressure on our field staff.

Mr. Kerrio: I have one question, Mr. Minister. I am quite concerned about some \$4.5 million throughout all these estimates in regards to services. I would ask, in this particular area, just some description of services in the main office under the \$69,200 figure.

Hon. Mr. Welch: There are two items marked services in vote 2801. There are the communication services—this, of course, is the whole area of public relations and communications. The field services, of course, are those to which I was just making some comment; that is, the field operation. The financial and administrative services are the general processing of accounts.

Mr. Kerrio: Yes, that's the area I'm interested in. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Shall vote 2801 carry?

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Chairman, no.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Fort William.

Mr. Angus: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a person who has worked in the field of recreation for many years, I am very pleased to participate in these estimates. I never thought I would see the day that I would be at this end of the stick.

I would like to refer my remarks to the field services, which, to my way of thinking, are the cornerstone for developing innovative forms of leisure opportunities throughout this province; particularly these field services that spend more time with the smaller, less affluent communities within their service areas—those without any staff at all, or with only one or two full-time people employed in recreation. Sometimes the field staff are called upon to be a listener, someone to check out

an idea—just another professional to talk to. At other times the consultant is the catalyst, the initiator, the organizer, or the hub, whatever role the situation dictates.

The consultant should not be a bagman. I think, with all due respect, that is what is happening in this province right now.

Two weeks ago, at the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association conference in Fort Frances, a consultant from the Thunder Bay office was introduced as a consultant for Wintario—and it wasn't in jest; they were very serious, because that was the role they saw that person play. And that's the role they have seen that person and the other consultants in that area and most other areas of this province play.

Hon. Mr. Welch: How long ago was that?

Mr. Angus: Two weeks ago. That wasn't something that the ministry gave them as a way of introducing him but what the municipal leaders saw that person as. That's how the individuals in the communities are seeing the consultants. It is not what the original intention was. As I said earlier, the intention was for them to be developing new forms of leisure and working with communities to help them develop the forms of leisure that the people need.

My colleague from Cornwall has said that it has been 25 to 50 per cent in his estimation. I have heard 40 to 60 per cent, not just from people within the ministry but from lay people, and professionals within recreation fields in the province. That means 40 to 60 per cent of the time they can't spend doing their original job as a consultant. They are attempting to cope with the bureaucracy and the workload of Wintario as well.

The demands that are placed on them by the communities they serve are becoming greater and greater as the knowledge of Wintario and the knowledge and feeling for leisure increase so that they are going to start working longer hours. As we all know in this House, the longer you work, the less effective you become.

If you are on the road for five days of the week as some of my former colleagues in northwestern Ontario are, and if you are only home on the weekends, and even then you are doing reports and follow-up and what have you, the tension builds and the quality of work is not as great as it could be. I think that it's mainly due to the Wintario situation that this strain is being placed on the consultants.

I realize in some cases there are clerical people now being employed to handle much of the paper work. I compliment you on that. I think that's an excellent step. A consultant who is paid \$14,000 to \$18,000 who has X number of years education, whether it be in recreation or adult education or citizenship or what have you, is not the person that we should be having filling out forms.

As you have mentioned, you have a number of contract staff within your ministry. They too, I believe, are under the gun in terms of the workload and they are second-class citizens in your ministry and I think in other ministries as well. From what I understand, when there are postings for permanent positions, if we can call them that these days—and with all due respect I think there are more and more postings every day from the indications that I have been given—the contract staff is not eligible to compete for those postings when it's first done internally.

They are second-class civil servants, so to speak. They have to wait until such time as it is advertised in the local paper, even though they have seen the posting. They know about it and they are interested but they can't apply.

When you bring staff in as a contract person, he or she has obviously got qualifications that you are interested in, and you think that that person can do a job. Following through on that, they should be having the same opportunities to apply internally. I would rather see internal staff who know the workings of the ministry get the positions than somebody coming from outside. Obviously there has to be a question of qualifications.

I am concerned about one situation, and I don't know how accurate my information is. I am led to believe that in terms of field staff consultants, there are no women in the field at this time. There have been in the past. I think there are a number in the main office. You have one. You still have one token woman. I would like to know what method the ministry is using to attract women to the field services of this ministry and what your successes have been.

A second concern I have is that the administration of the field services is separated from the various functioning arms, whether it be sports and fitness or cultural or what have you, and yet the first person that most groups come in contact with out there in the real world is the field consultant, the generalist as they are being called now. I am not sure how to see it done but I would rather see some sort of rearrangement so that there is an official direct link, because I

know that the unofficial link still exists as a carryover from some of the old ministers.

[9:30]

My final item—one that I'm pleased about, if it is correct. In the past there was so much frustration from communities and consultants that they didn't have the authority to approve \$100 in expenditure or a grant to a municipality. They had to send their forms in triplicate to the ministry and hope that within six weeks they would get an answer. I understand now that that has changed, that upon negotiation with the ministry the regional offices can receive a certain allotment to deal with their particular area in a way they see fit. I compliment you on that and I will be quiet for a few minutes until we get to a later vote where I'd like to go into some other details.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments of the hon. member and I know something about his background in this field, so therefore I do want to follow up on one or two areas.

I think there's no question we have a little more time to go to get this concept of the new ministry translated at the field level. As the hon. member so correctly points out, the field staff were related to the sports and recreation division to a large extent, which was part of a larger ministry. Each part of that ministry had its field staff for different purposes. So there was that type of specialization, if I could put it that way.

When we established the new ministry, faced with the obvious fact that our field staff wasn't going to grow, because of the limitations on growth, we wanted them to represent the entire ministry in the various communities that they were serving. We wanted them to be the field staff of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation and therefore to change from a specialistic approach and become generalists—they could speak to library boards about the libraries and they could speak to the ethno-cultural clubs in their area about citizenship and multicultural support. I'm sure they were introduced to all kinds of other responsibilities which were not part of their former responsibility.

Then we wanted to find a focus for them in the ministry, not relating necessarily to a particular director of a division but to respond to the whole ministry. So we developed within the management area the director of field services, accountable as he is to the deputy minister, so that, given this organizational chart, he would have this idea of total ministry responsibilities. I ap-

preciate the fact you may think that may be a problem still. I have some evidence from talking to our regional managers and our regional staff that they are becoming more comfortable with that—I suppose in varying degrees.

We sure need more field staff. I don't argue that point at all. We could use many more man-hours in the field, and that's where it's at. To be consistent with our whole approach to the philosophy of this ministry, that's where I would like to see the development, in the relationship of this ministry to recreation commissions and boards and school boards and municipal councils and art councils and multicultural councils—all kinds of groups.

I don't know where they find all the time either. I think we are well served. We have some pretty dedicated people who are working long hours in order to do this. We have obvious limitations with respect to what we can do about it. But as the minister I recognize the limitations that are placed on them.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Chairman, I have just a few questions in this particular vote. Under communication services which is new this year I note a certain sum of money. Is any money allocated to the Foster Advertising agency under this vote? That is my first question.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, this is not a new item. We've always had an item for communication services and to answer this specific question, no.

Mrs. Campbell: Was it then under that vote previously when the Foster Advertising agency prepared the brochure on the guidelines for multiculturalism, according to the members of your staff? Where would that have been found in the vote at that time since there is no indication of the 1974-1975 actual here?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, multicultural support and citizenship is vote 2804. I'm at a loss—I want to be helpful—I don't know of any brochure prepared by Foster Advertising for this ministry since I've been the minister. It may well be that we could have inherited it.

Mrs. Campbell: Perhaps the minister would investigate it. I accept the fact that if it were prepared, as I am informed it was, that it would be under the multicultural programme vote. Thank you very much.

Could the minister tell me whether management consultants are involved in this. If so, how many and over what period of time?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I don't think there is any provision for that in these particular estimates. I know of no contracts that we presently have with management consultants in this particular vote. I did, of course, make some reference when I was responding to the general comments of the member for Cornwall, that last year we had retained the services of Paul Shaffer, formerly of York University, to do a paper for us, but that was last year.

Mrs. Campbell: That isn't management consulting.

Hon. Mr. Welch: But we have the report just now.

Mrs. Campbell: Then I take it the minister is saying that there is no provision or that there are no management consultants in this ministry at this time and have not been. If that is the case, that's all I wanted to know on that particular point.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the minister about his policy concerning the televising and radio broadcasting of sports events. As a policy, Mr. Minister, do you promote or encourage that at all as part of the culture of the province?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Certainly in this particular vote we have no programme along that particular line.

Mr. B. Newman: But as a policy, you do encourage the viewing of Canadian sports activities; you think it is part of the Canadian culture, do you not, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Welch: There is no question that in order to understand what is meant by culture in its broadest definition, you'd have to include the whole field of athletics and the types of activities in which our people are engaged.

Mr. B. Newman: I bring that to your attention, Mr. Minister, because I am sure your officials realize that we in the southwestern part of the province, in the Windsor area, are deprived of viewing Canadian hockey games simply because there happen to be hockey games played in the city of Detroit at the same time. I'm just wondering why your officials wouldn't make a presentation to the CRTC on behalf of the residents of Windsor so that we wouldn't be deprived of a bit of Canadian culture when, say, Toronto is playing Montreal in either Toronto or Montreal, and we in Windsor, because the Red Wings are playing, are deprived of that.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Of course, you can appreciate then that the people in your area are being saved from all that violence anyway.

Mrs. Campbell: They never heard of Roy McMurtry down there.

Mr. B. Newman: You may be right about that aspect of it, Mr. Minister, but don't you think that your ministry should be concerned that one section of the province is being deprived of the viewing of that type of culture—and not all hockey games are necessarily violent. For example, when the Russians were playing we couldn't see the games being televised in the rest of Ontario simply because there happened to be another hockey game in the city of Detroit. I think that you, Mr. Minister, should fight for the dissemination of that type of an athletic event to all parts of the province so that one part is not deprived of at least that type of culture.

Mr. Samis: Who runs the CBC?

Mr. B. Newman: The minister should have made a presentation to the CBC.

Interjection.

Mr. B. Newman: I did have our federal member make a presentation, but I thought the province would be interested enough to make one.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if members of the House would allow me, just before we proceed to vote 2802, to make a very important announcement. I have been told that the following tickets have been drawn tonight in Wintario.

Mr. Cassidy: That's what we are waiting for.

Hon. Mr. Welch: If anybody here has one of these tickets, the office will be open until midnight to claim. The first prize was series No. 3; it is ticket 10546. The second big prize is series 16, ticket 11932. The third prize is series 37, ticket 71069. The fourth prize is series 3, ticket 29031. The fifth prize is series 55, ticket 79436. All of these ticket holders win \$100,000. In all, there are 32,400 potential winners of \$2,511,000.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Inasmuch as the chairman does not hold one of the winning tickets, he rules it out of order.

Shall vote 2801 carry?

Vote 2801 agreed to.

On vote 2802:

Mr. Chairman: The heritage conservation programme.

Mr. Samis: Under the second item, unless there are any questions on the first one, I would like to ask a series of questions. Maybe to expedite it, we will do it in threes or something. Otherwise we may never get through this.

Could I ask first of all about the position of the present chairman, Mr. Bert Lawrence? In view of his stated interest in vacating for the federal field, could I ask for an explanation why there has been a \$500,000 reduction in the grants to the Heritage Foundation? And as the first part of the third, could you tell us what role the heritage administration has played in the Sandiford Place dilemma in the city of Hamilton?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Sandiford Place dilemma?

Mr. Samis: North of Niagara.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, if I could quickly respond to those three questions. It's clearly understood by the chairman of the Ontario Heritage Foundation that should he receive that very important nomination, he would resign as chairman of the foundation.

Secondly, the reduction is explained simply on a cash-flow basis. There are transfer payments to the foundation. They had a balance at the end of the fiscal year and therefore we were able to effect some saving and only transfer this amount. This still left them with adequate funds to carry out their particular responsibilities.

As far as the Sandiford Place situation is concerned, if you just wait one minute, I'll get some further information on that.

Apparently, that particular establishment has been designated by the city of Hamilton and the property has now been acquired by the city of Hamilton. They have now made application for funds for its restoration. I would assume in due course the Heritage Foundation would deal with that matter.

Mr. Samis: The second series of questions would deal with other matters, more on policy. Can you explain why your ministry is so reluctant to designate provincial buildings or Crown buildings coming within the jurisdiction of the heritage legislation? Can you give us some indication of your policy regarding the Henderson report recommendation on Fort William and the reception centres? Can you tell us why the Royal Ontario Museum is included under heritage

administration and last year it was under cultural institutions?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think it was a very deliberate decision of the government, when the then Minister of Colleges and Universities brought in the heritage bill, to leave the question of designation at the municipal level. The establishment of the advisory councils was a new development with respect to this type of legislation and we felt that it would be better at this stage. That would still be our opinion, to leave this question at the local level where that type of assessment and judgement could be made.

Mr. Samis: I am sorry, but that wasn't what I was asking. I was asking about provincial buildings and their exemptions.
[9:45]

Hon. Mr. Welch: But the point is that we, in fact, do not provide for provincial designation. The municipality, therefore, in discharging its responsibility would only deal with property within the municipality, either owned by it or by private property, and not property owned by Her Majesty in the right of the province or the federal government.

The Fort William situation; I think we have completed it at the stage where we are, and we don't plan any further developments there at the present time.

The third question was—

Mr. Samis: The ROM; why is it under heritage this year?

Hon. Mr. Welch: We had our institutions, for which we were responsible, sort of all in one spot last time. And we felt that, perhaps, it would be better to decentralize and to place them within those areas more related to their activities. You will see that the Art Gallery of Ontario and the McMichael Canadian Collection and such institutions, are in the art support area. The Royal Ontario Museum, quite properly, is in the area of heritage conservation to sort of ensure that the developments there would be sort of consistent with our developments in that particular area of responsibility.

Mr. Samis: These are the final series of questions.

Can you tell us where the conservation review board comes up in these estimates, and why it is not listed? Can you tell us if you are giving any consideration to amending the Ontario Heritage Act, in the question of municipal designation? Have you given any thought to the regulation—not a

major point—obliging the municipalities to advertise on three consecutive weeks in newspapers? I understand there is some scattered feeling that this places somewhat of a burden on smaller municipalities in spending. Can you clarify the eligibility of the heritage projects for Wintario, and have you given any consideration—since Canada Week is becoming somewhat institutionalized, still in its early years—to somehow incorporating some form of assistance or liaison between these committees and the heritage administration, since it seems like this particular form of heritage celebration is now taking root? It is not an isolated thing, it is becoming somewhat established in the province.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The provision for the conservation review board, I am advised, is included in this vote, although not necessarily singled out.

The question of publicity is, of course, to ensure that there is ample notice being given to those who may be affected by the designation and to satisfy ourselves that they have the opportunity to appeal the designation and what their rights are.

Heritage projects do qualify for Wintario, and we have had some successful applications along this line. We would encourage development here. In fact, that illustrates the point I made a little while ago that we were hoping that all divisions of this ministry would see the availability of Wintario funds as an asset for them. We have approved about 38 heritage projects to a total of nearly \$88,000.

Mr. Samis: And the question of Canada Week?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes, actually, that is the programme of Heritage Canada. The position which we have taken as a government is that at such time as the federal government were to actually recognize it in a formal way, that perhaps would be the time to join in that particular observance. As you know, the government of Canada has really not yet taken that particular formal step by way of proclamation.

This isn't to discourage the work of Heritage Canada. There are many jurisdictions now, through the school systems, that recognize "Heritage Day" or "Heritage Week" as part of their school observances in that first week in February—and there is a great deal of multi-cultural work done in the schools at that time. But we have taken the position that perhaps we would wait until such time as it was proclaimed nationally, and then

would join in those particular celebrations at that time.

Mr. Samis: Could I have just one final question? On the third vote, could the minister explain why there was such a sizable decrease in historical sites, especially in acquisition and construction of physical assets? I believe that is almost a 50 per cent decrease. And in services we have a very substantial decrease as well—66 per cent, I believe.

Hon. Mr. Welch: That's related pretty well, I think, to the fact that the Fort William project is now completed, and therefore additional funds weren't required this year for that.

Mr. B. Newman: I am sure the minister is aware of the Willistead art gallery, or former art gallery—the Willistead coach house and the Willistead manor house. He also knows that the roof on the structure is badly in need of repair and that the city has put in a formal request for assistance to put the building back into a better state of repair so that it could be maintained, seeing that it is an example of 16th century Tudor architecture and one of the most unusual buildings in the community. How far has the city's request progressed as far as your ministry is concerned?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes, I do recall. In fact, about a year ago I was there and saw the structure to which the hon. member makes reference. It is very attractive and has some particular style that has to be taken into account.

About two or three weeks ago, we had some consultants down to review the situation and to estimate whether or not there weren't some savings which could be effected there. I haven't seen that report yet. I think once that work is done, it will then go to the Heritage Foundation for their consideration.

Mr. B. Newman: When it goes to the Heritage Foundation, does it get a recommendation from the minister or not? Or is the Heritage Foundation the sole decision-maker?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes.

Mr. B. Newman: May I ask of the minister at the same time if the Heritage Foundation, through the minister, is looking at the Assumption Church, a church that was originally founded back in the 1700s. I think they've also asked for assistance through this min-

istry of the Heritage Foundation to put it back in a proper state of repair. Otherwise we're going to lose a most unusual type of building and a type of church we should do everything to preserve.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I appreciate the comments that have been made. I think the Heritage Foundation for some time now has been struggling with this whole question as to the extent to which they get involved with churches and what you might call the development of church policy. There are a number of architectural gems, as far as our church properties are concerned, and the extent to which the Heritage Foundation will get involved there, I guess, is a matter which they really haven't resolved yet.

Mr. Bain: I'd like to discuss with the minister a particular historic site that I think is worthy of conservation and preservation. It's a site that I'm sure the minister's familiar with, the Cobalt restoration project. This project has been studied for a good number of years, originally by the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, and most recently by the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

I won't go into all the background. Suffice it to say that there was a Cobalt restoration project committee set up that was functioning in the last fiscal year. Because of problems that were encountered due to the financial ceilings imposed by the government, a study that was to be undertaken last fall could not be started until the new year and was not completed until the end of the fiscal year. Therefore, the Cobalt restoration committee couldn't apply for its new funding without the recommendations of this study.

What happened was that the Cobalt restoration committee went through a period, a very difficult time, during which they felt their project was going to come to an end without any transition or even any prospect of a transition being provided through another stage. As the minister is aware, a delegation from Cobalt, under the leadership of Mayor Jack Mathews and the co-ordinator of the restoration project, Mr. Doug McLeod, came down and discussed this project with officials from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation and with officials from the Ministry of Industry and Tourism.

I would simply like to make a case to the minister this evening that the Cobalt area is certainly worth preserving. The studies that have been done all point to a three-phased restoration which would entail a restoration of historical buildings in the town itself, a restoration of one of the mines—the one that's

most often mentioned is the O'Brien mine—and the restoration and installation of an electric streetcar line. All of these facilities would provide activities for people and, I think the minister will agree, are the kinds of activities that people enjoy at these historical sites. An historical site really has limited appeal if it is static. People like to be able to participate and recreate, so to speak, some of the historic background for themselves.

This restoration could be tied into a frontier tour, a self-guided tour that the motoring tourist could partake in as part of an overall tour throughout northeastern Ontario. I am sure the minister will agree with me, since I must say as an aside that I agreed wholeheartedly with some of his comments when he said that the funds in his ministry that come from Wintario shouldn't be ploughed into the general treasury. It would make a drop in the bucket in the overall budget, but it would detract from something very important, and this cultural heritage in our province is important. We can't separate ourselves from our past and we don't exist in isolation right here and now. We should preserve our heritage for ourselves and for our future generations.

There are to my knowledge no such projects in Ontario that preserve the mining heritage. This is a unique part of our heritage. Much of the wealth that is now enjoyed in Ontario initiated with the mining adventures that occurred in northern Ontario at the turn of the century. Cobalt is the name that is most often associated with these original early days of the mining industry.

The Cobalt restoration is a good one to undertake because most of the buildings are still there. There wouldn't be the millions of dollars that were needed to reconstruct buildings in other places as the buildings still exist. It would simply mean maintaining, upgrading and getting the buildings into a proper façade, a proper set up, so that they would be able to be enjoyed by the tourists.

Probably the best way of approaching it would be through an authority that could be set up to undertake the project. Already tourists are enjoying the facilities that exist. For example, the Cobalt mining museum and Hermiston museum attract many people, but there just aren't other facilities that people can partake in. It is estimated that about 6,000 tourists go to the Cobalt area in a year. If the project was completed as proposed, approximately 60,000 people would go to the area. This, I think, would be of benefit, as I said, not only to the Cobalt and tri-town

area, but to all of northeastern Ontario. It would be an attraction that would get tourists up beyond North Bay, and they would then make the great circle route along Highway 11 through all of northeastern Ontario. I think it is a worthwhile project; it is one that would assist the whole area economically as well as preserve a valuable part of the heritage of this province.

Mr. Ferrier: Could I just support my colleague here? The municipalities and the people in my riding are very enthusiastic about the Cobalt restoration project. A year or so ago we had been talking about a science centre in our part of the province to portray mining, hydro and forestry but, unfortunately, a few people let that project get out of their hands. The possibility looms that there could be a major tourist attraction and educational attraction in the Cobalt area which, as my colleague says, would bring tourists north from North Bay into the Cobalt area and perhaps bring them on.

It would be a place in the province where mining could be highlighted, the history of mining, and some of the techniques of mining. I would like very strongly to suggest that you make every effort to support this project and you will have the support of all of the northeast. While we kind of flubbed the science centre concept in Timmins, we believe this project in Cobalt is very worthy of support. We would like to see your government proceed to back them up and to put a major tourist attraction there and put in whatever planning, finances and so on are needed to help the Cobalt area.

[10:00]

Hon. Mr. Welch: Very briefly, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate having these comments. As the hon. members know, a delegation was here I guess about six weeks ago in which we were talking about this. It's my understanding that Industry and Tourism have just now received the Proctor and Redfern report. We've received a copy of that just in the last few days. We'll be working with Industry and Tourism because there is this question as to their interest as well as ours from a heritage point of view. No doubt we will be able to have a better appreciation of the extent of this operation once we've had an opportunity to study the Proctor-Redfern report.

Mr. Bain: Mr. Chairman, I realize time is of the essence, but if I could just leave one comment with the minister. The problem with the Ministry of Industry and Tourism recently has been that they don't have the financial resources to deal with it. I'm rais-

ing this in your estimates because it would seem that your ministry will be the only one that will have the ability to undertake the project. If we leave it to Industry and Tourism it's not going to get off the ground, I'm afraid.

Hon. Mr. Welch: And there are obviously—

An hon. member: Maybe they could sell Minaki Lodge.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Chairman, I have two or three questions in this particular vote on 2802. I would question the minister in regard to the archives. We have an expenditure of some \$795,000 for the maintenance of those archives. I would just like a little description of the physical being of the archives, where they are and if the government owns all of them.

Hon. Mr. Welch: 77 Grenville is the address.

Mr. Kerrio: That's what I was looking for. I think the member for Cornwall asked the question, but in the estimates of 1975-1976 heritage conservation paid \$142,000 for a conservation review board. It's not present in this year's estimates. You made some remarks toward that and I'd just like to know if there is money for the review board and where it would appear in the estimates.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It's within the vote called item 2 and it provides for \$142,600.

Mr. Kerrio: The same amount as the other year.

Hon. Mr. Welch: No, it's down from last year.

Mr. Kerrio: One hundred and forty-two thousand dollars?

Hon. Mr. Welch: It's lower this year.

Mr. Kerrio: In regard to Black Creek Pioneer Village, I would like to point out that they are now receiving a \$12,000 grant from the provincial government as do all museums in the province. I think they have appealed to your ministry for more funds and I would just like to press their argument in regards to the particular function that they provide at that site.

Their \$12,000 is used in the historical village and it contains some 32 homes. They have some 300,000 visitors go through that village and if we divide that out that's some four cents per person. There is some need to help them in this regard, considering that we support projects of single homes for the \$12,000 in this particular fund. It would

appear that with this kind of visitor coverage in this particular village, their particular application, I would stress, may be very well worth considering. They have had to sell memberships and run a campaign on CFRB to sell memberships in order to keep that particularly successful village going. I'd like to hear your comments in regard to that.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I might just correct some misinformation. The conservation review board, as I indicated to the hon. member, is included in the vote in item 2 of this vote. A sum of \$30,000 is provided this year—it's down—the reason being that last year, without having had any experience as to the extent to which the activities of this board would be called into play, we provided them with \$142,000 but a considerable amount of that was not spent. Therefore, this year the budget for the operation of the board is only \$30,000.

With respect to Black Creek, this particular facility in Metropolitan Toronto is a tremendous one. In fact, I was there today to see something of the extent of the support; they tell me that even at this stage their attendance is up 6,000 over last year. I think we should keep in mind, insofar as the museum policy of the province is concerned, it was in 1970-1971 that the maximum grant per museum was \$1,000, so in a very short period of time, if we just keep the number of dollars out, we've increased the support to the museums of the province 12 times.

The problem with respect to Black Creek, and I think the same would apply to the Pioneer Village at Doon and others—and I've already undertaken this in response to the concern of the conservation authority operating Black Creek—is that we have to review our policy, not from the standpoint of reducing grants to other museums, which have come to depend upon this support, but rather to think in terms of maybe another classification for this type of facility. We must take into account all their sources of revenue, not just from the museum branch, and whether or not there is some way to look upon the village, not just as a single museum, but perhaps in terms of some parts of it as being individual museums. I don't know what the ultimate outcome will be, except that in response to the particular concerns of Black Creek, I've undertaken to review our museum policy, keeping in mind that whatever is ultimately decided would have to apply to all those who could meet any new criteria that may be developed in response to that particular review.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Chairman, I have just a very short question. What is the compara-

tive provincial government contribution between Black Creek and Upper Canada Village?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I don't have any responsibility for Upper Canada Village, but I could get those figures. Under the museum policy, the maximum grant to Pioneer Village is \$12,000 in this particular vote. Upper Canada Village, of course, is operated by a commission within the Ministry of Natural Resources. I don't have access to that particular figure, but I can get you that information.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, I'm sure the minister is aware there is quite a major programme going on in the riding of Essex South, particularly in the town of Amherstburg.

Mr. B. Newman: That's a great riding, Essex South.

Mr. Mancini: That's right.

On behalf of the people involved there in the heritage committee, and on behalf of the three municipalities involved, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. Minister, and people like Stephen Otto and your deputy, Bob Johnston, for all the assistance that they have offered to that part of the province. We hope that some day you'll have the time to come in and take a look at what they're doing.

At this time, I would also like to mention the Ontario Historical Vehicle Society. We've already had this particular organization in to meet your deputy, and they were received quite well. I would just like to make an appeal on their behalf. They have quite an extensive programme planned, and I'm sure it will be a great asset to this great province.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Thank you very much.

Mr. Peterson: You don't get many kind words these days, do you?

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Chairman, I just have a couple of questions and observations. I am concerned throughout this ministry, and I will be speaking more at length on the Wintario programme, about the fact that we do not seem to have a very major thrust into the preservation of our heritage. I look at the matter of Black Creek Village and I wonder why it wouldn't qualify, for instance, as a cultural institution, where perhaps it could have infinitely more funding.

One of the things that bothers me is that when you have historical societies, such as you have in Toronto, which are municipally controlled, they have a great deal of difficulty

in finding the money for acquisition purposes because often these items come up at a time when they just are not able to purchase. Yet the various historical sites in Toronto itself are not adequately funded to enable Toronto, which is still the capital city of this province, to preserve the heritage of the province as indicated through its capital city.

I would like to know in specific terms whether any consideration is being given to assistance to the city in the preservation of the Paul Kane home which was purchased by the city interestingly enough by demand of the citizens of the area. It was not something initiated by the city. I think the city felt they couldn't really afford it this year, but they either bought it now or lost it. There it sits, on Wellesley St.; it's rather an eyesore, and I suspect it will continue to be—unless there is some funding available for the preservation and rehabilitation of it.

With those comments I have nothing further on this vote.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I am familiar with the building to which the hon. member makes reference since I reside during the week in her riding. It's my understanding that negotiations are still going on between the city and the present owner. Certainly it's under very active consideration as far as the Heritage Foundation is concerned ultimately as to what our involvement would be with respect to renovation and restoration. I suppose those negotiations will be speeded up once the question of ownership in the city has been completed.

Mrs. Campbell: Could I have clarification on the earlier question raised that perhaps our heritage is just as important as cultural institutions which come in the next vote? Perhaps similar funding could be available?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I don't think there is any question as to where we stand as far as the whole area of heritage conservation is concerned. We are being asked to vote nearly \$16 million in this vote for this particular activity.

As far as the Wintario resource is concerned, there are no limitations placed on it—subject to these principles that people want to move here. There has been perhaps a cautious approach under the new legislation with respect to designation. In fact I received a wire the other day from the Secretary of State to say they passed the cultural properties Act in Ottawa to make sure there were some resources to ensure our artifacts wouldn't be leaving the country—I think a

very progressive piece of legislation, as far as the Canadian government is concerned.

The whole area of preservation is a very important one. There is a climate for that now. Certainly you won't find this ministry standing in the way of being as supportive as we can to encourage that.

I think the Heritage Foundation itself has done a great deal of work. Many residents of Ontario, now that this Heritage Foundation is operating in its present form, are making gifts to the province of properties so that they can be held for future generations to see these particular artifacts as well. So I attach a great deal of importance to this. I suppose it's like so many government programmes; we'll move as quickly as there is a general acceptability with respect to these things and as resources are available.

Mrs. Campbell: Could I have clarification on the minister's references to Wintario? He is aware of the fact that people had thought Wintario funding—

Mr. Chairman: That's under the last vote.

Mrs. Campbell: Just a moment, please. I am referring to the minister's own comments and I want clarification. People have been applying for preservation purposes under Wintario, and have been told they must apply to Heritage Foundation. It seems to me that heritage is going to run out of money unless there is some kind of movement to bring Wintario into accord with Heritage Foundation.

[10:15]

Hon. Mr. Welch: When we get to the last vote, I will show you how there have been some successful combinations between Heritage and Wintario.

Vote 2802 agreed to.

On vote 2803:

Mr. Chairman: Arts support programme.

Mr. Samis: First of all, before getting to any individual question, let me just state very clearly, so that it's on the record, that in terms of arts support we wholeheartedly support the principle of the Ontario Arts Council. We are very impressed by the fact that almost unanimously people who deal with them are very happy with the way they are administering those funds. Let me suggest that, if they are doing such a good job where there is such a need, then the obvious conclusion is that they need more and should be given more. Before we get to that, let

me get on to the first item. Can I ask the minister first of all for a breakdown—in the major terms, not complete—of the capital grants for cultural support in item 1?

Hon. Mr. Welch: You want to know our grants for capital support?

Mr. Samis: Just the major ones.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The difficulty here is that these are usually very small grants. I can tell you the Blue Mountain concert shell in Collingwood for \$140,000, the Brockville Opera House for \$150,000, the Dundas Valley School of Art for \$100,000 and the Hamilton Art Gallery for \$150,000.

Mr. Samis: Could I see a written copy of that?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes, I would be glad to send you one.

Mr. Samis: Could I move on in item 1 to the whole question of support for cultural programmes and cultural development and get back to the whole question, first of all, of our cinema culture in the Province of Ontario. I must say I am still not satisfied with the answer you gave me in the opening remarks. When are we going to have a policy? You will admit that as of now there is no such policy. You have met with all the constituent groups. You told us in the estimates last year that the reason there was no policy was the ministry was new and you had to adapt and size up the situation with the various elements.

It is 12 months later and it seems we are no closer to formulating any sort of policy. It would almost turn one into a cynic to wonder if we will ever have a policy. I have really stressed the importance of Ontario, in terms of English Canada and the development of a cinematic culture, a distinctive home-grown one, to take a stand, not to always cop out and say it's Hugh Faulkner's job or the Secretary of State isn't doing enough. What I want to know is what are you going to do? What is this ministry going to do?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I can appreciate the sense of frustration expressed by the hon. member that we perhaps haven't made more progress. In fact, I don't hide the fact that I would wish that we could make more progress. I have met with all the groups. For the first time all the constituent elements that are necessary to develop policy sat down in one place at a conference under neutral chairmanship and talked about it very freely.

I am not sure that any one particular idea from any one particular group in this whole composite is really going to solve the problem. I don't think we need any more meetings to understand the problem. On the other hand, what we need now is what we consider to be a satisfactory solution, and I am not being facetious here. If the hon. member has any contribution to make toward that solution, I would welcome it.

I do repeat that I see this as a national issue. We indicated at the meeting of officials that was held just last week with representatives of the Secretary of State that the time had now come for the two ministers to sit down. As I understand it, an agenda is now being prepared for that particular meeting.

I am sure we would be prepared to do our part from a jurisdictional point of view in the development of such a policy. I think we have to recognize the fact that we want to develop something and it is a very interesting market.

[10:15]

We certainly shouldn't deny the fact so far as the work of the National Film Board is concerned and other agencies have done a remarkable job as well. This is the big market, Ontario. This is where some leadership should come from. I understand all of those matters and I can only hope that eventually, with some further discussions, we would be able to respond in a more positive way and hopefully in a helpful way.

Mr. Samis: Could I suggest that we've studied this thing to death? We've consulted it to where there is no one left to be consulted to get the various considerations.

Hon. Mr. Welch: What's the answer, George?

Mr. Samis: Let's take two matters that are most frequently suggested to you. You've got the Bassett report; you've got the Klopchic report I believe it is; you have the report from the select committee; you've consulted within your ministry; you've consulted beyond with the constituent elements. Are you any closer to any form of decision, any form of policy on either quota or levy for example? Those are not magic solutions; they are not panaceas. They are two proposals, two concrete proposals, that will not cost money. Have you come any closer to formulating any policy whatsoever? Or are we still in limbo on those two matters?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think we're closer to developing a policy but I don't want my

answer to be deemed that I am necessarily seeing the solution of the problem going those routes. The levy situation, to speak briefly and to share with you, is simply a means to provide more money. If, in fact, there were other ways to provide those revenues without deterring support at the box office, I suppose we should take a look at that. I don't think an arbitrary quota in itself or by itself might necessarily solve the problem. But it may be that it should be part of an overall policy. That's why I say I think we are closer to some possible resolution of these but I don't want my answer to be interpreted to necessarily indicate that I see the solution along those routes exclusively.

Mr. Samis: May I ask you why, in the estimates last year, you virtually assured us—the word you used was “unquestionably”—that we'd have a policy this year? We haven't had a policy. I ask you, number one, why, in view of what you said in the estimates, haven't we? Because we knew all those problems and considerations lay ahead anyway. Secondly, I'll ask the same question: Will we have some policy from your ministry on this particular form of cultural development this year?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think you're entitled to know why I would answer the question as I did last year. Perhaps you could just chalk it up to the optimism of a new boy in a new job. Maybe what I'm faced with now, that having gone through a series of meetings, it has defied, perhaps, an overly simplistic approach to solutions. I am hopeful that we can arrive at some satisfactory solution, which I will then, after meeting with the Secretary of State, be prepared to recommend to my cabinet colleagues.

Mr. Samis: Is there any degree of commitment at all from you on either the Bassett report, the Klopchic report or the select committee report? Is there any degree of implementation? Or are you just going to sit on those three?

Hon. Mr. Welch: All three reports are helpful and I'm really avoiding being any more specific.

Mr. Samis: May I suggest that the minister sometimes emulates Toller Cranston on the ice with his dexterity with verbal evasiveness. It's as frustrating as you know what, and it's not heavenly.

Let me move on to another item under cultural development—the whole question of

publishing, and the book publishing subsidies. We'll see if we can get a little more specific here.

A couple of years ago this government, more or less through Industry and Tourism, but affecting this nascent ministry, did inaugurate a programme where the government did guarantee loans from EODC to Canadian publishers. Since you do have some responsibility for this jurisdiction now, can you tell us what your ministry is recommending to Industry and Tourism? Apparently in September, 1975, you said the programme was under review. I understand that Mr. David Spence was partly commissioned to design a more sophisticated set of guidelines. Will that programme be revived in any way, shape or form? Is it still under review? What can we expect?

Hon. Mr. Welch: As you know the cultural industries branch, to which you made reference, has a number of responsibilities—the question of our film policy, the question of the ongoing review of our publishing policy and also in the whole recording industry, to mention three. The involvement of our ministry has been to provide some direct grants to cover interest charges as far as the ODC operation is concerned. As you know, it is the Ontario Development Corp. that receives applications from the publishers for guarantees and payment of half of the interest due on loans, which are arranged with commercial lending institutions to aid the publishing concerns in maintaining this very important matter of Canadian ownership and operational survival. We've made provision for guarantee and/or subsidy of interest on loans to a number of concerns—and I would be very glad to provide you with the list—rather than reading them tonight. There is a list of companies which have benefited from this.

In addition, as the hon. member will know, the Ontario Arts Council has a programme of dealing both with authors and with publishers, and this particular programme has been very successful as well.

Mr. Samis: In view of the time factor, I'll cut some of the questions out on that particular aspect of this item.

Let's get on to periodicals. Your colleague in the front bench, the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), is embarking on another one of his white knight crusades. This time he has picked out the "porno" field, supposedly as the latest victim of his crusades.

Can I ask, within the Act covering periodical distributors, if a crackdown is being

launched against distributors, such as Metro News, for supposedly or allegedly violating the good morals of this fair province, have you given consideration or made any recommendations, either to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) and/or the Attorney General—but I assume much more so the prior minister—that one of the conditions of giving a distributor a licence in this province, a provincial licence, would be that he must provide a certain access to Canadian publications, paperbacks, periodicals, on their newsstands? Have you made any policy recommendations to that effect to your colleague in Consumer and Commercial Relations to guarantee that Canadian publishers will have access to the market?

Even though we've made a transfer in ownership in Metro News, for example, the end result hasn't been very happy in terms of the Canadian publishing industry. Have you made any initiative or suggestions to that end?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Of course, we would be identified with any move to urge access. But, certainly, if you're asking me for some formal declaration which I may have made or said—I haven't done this. But this would be consistent with our policy in encouraging the whole question of access, relative to section 6, which incorporates this ministry.

Mr. Samis: As a minister who has some degree of involvement and, I hope, concern as well for this particular field, would you recommend such a policy to your colleague?

Hon. Mr. Welch: If I understand the question, you think we could develop some type of regulatory power that would ensure that any Canadian who printed a paperback, or is involved in a paperback, would have access to a retail distribution.

Mr. Samis: The emphasis would be on the distributor. One of the conditions of his receiving a licence would be that he'd have to guarantee some degree of access for Canadian periodicals and publications—perhaps a quota.

Mr. Chairman: The time for adjournment has arrived.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Perhaps we could get back to that next time.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed, Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of supply begs to report it has come to certain resolutions and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House, I would indicate that tomorrow we will have budget debate. On Monday afternoon we

will return to these estimates until 5 o'clock, and then the private members' hour from 5 to 6 o'clock. There will be no session Monday evening, of course.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Ontario. Legislative Assembly

No. 69



Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Friday, May 28, 1976

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

THE QUEEN'S PRINTER
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, TORONTO
1976



The death of the Hon. W. Ross Macdonald, PC, CD, QC, LL.D., immediate past Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, was announced to the House by Mr. Speaker.

The Hon. William Davis, Premier, expressed the sorrow of the House and the people of Ontario and paid tribute to Mr. Macdonald's service to the nation and the province, in which he was joined by Mr. Donald C. MacDonald, member for York South and Mr. Robert Nixon, member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

In respect to Mr. Macdonald's memory, the House then adjourned on motion by the Premier.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1976

The House met at 10:10 a.m.

Prayers.

DEATH OF HON. W. ROSS MACDONALD

Mr. Speaker: It is with deep regret that I inform the House of the passing of the Hon. W. Ross Macdonald, PC, CD, QC, LL.D., the immediate past Lieutenant Governor of this province.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am sure it is a great sense of sadness that we experience at this moment. I can recall very well when I first met the former Lieutenant Governor when he was a guest of a relative of the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt), as a matter of fact, when they used to visit on the shores of Georgian Bay. He was then a very active member of the House of Commons and I was not then a member of this Legislature.

In his own kindly fashion, he tried to persuade me of my errors in political philosophy. I think in later years he came to realize that perhaps those errors weren't as significant as he once thought. In fact, I was almost under the impression some days when we attended certain functions with him that he had almost become converted in that sense of the word.

He was one of the very fine men that I have had the pleasure of knowing in my experience in public life. The kind of example that he set as an individual and the very great dignity that he brought to his office were really an example for each and every one of us. He had a very great sense of humour and was one who pursued his responsibilities with enthusiasm, dedication and with a particular interest in the people of this province. He spent a lot of time, as you know, Mr. Speaker, visiting the various communities throughout Ontario and always took a particular interest in the students and in the school system.

I can recall his checking with me as to whether or not he had the authority to give half-holidays when he visited certain com-

munities and, while we couldn't clearly define this for him, he succeeded in granting those half-holidays in any event. The children literally loved him. He had an amazing rapport with young people and this was something too that the people of this province over the years ahead, I'm sure, will remember.

Ross Macdonald was one of the truly great public servants of this province, a man whom those of us who had the pleasure of knowing him grew to respect and to like. No matter what our political affiliations, we regarded him as a friend. I would like, on behalf of the government, to extend my condolences to the members of his family and perhaps, in particular, to his grandchildren of whom he thought so very highly. I would like just to say in a very personal way that in my tenure here as Premier while he was the Lieutenant Governor it was an association that I shall long remember because he was a man of great intellect, great integrity and a very human individual indeed.

It is a very sad moment in this House and, on behalf of the government, we do express our regrets.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, with regret and sadness I join the Premier in expressing our tribute to the late Ross Macdonald.

(For those members of the House who were here when he was the Lieutenant Governor, I am confident that each one feels a sense of personal loss. The characteristic that stood out in Ross Macdonald was his warmth of relationships with people, irrespective of their political beliefs; indeed I would almost say particularly because of their political beliefs that they happened to be in some degree of opposition. He could always disagree without being disagreeable.)

He was a public servant who had served, in what is normally deemed to be a partisan sense, as a member of a political party which he served in many, many ways. Yet when he moved from that into the non-partisan role of Lieutenant Governor he handled it in such an impeccable way that I never heard of a single person who suggested there were critical touches of a legitimate early partisanship.

He was a noble head of a noble clan. I join with the Prime Minister in expressing our deep regrets to the family and particularly to the grandchildren.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, of course there was a feeling of sadness when we heard the news this morning of Ross Macdonald's passing. He came to Ontario as Lieutenant Governor after a very full political career. I am sure you are aware that he not only served for many years as a member of Parliament but as Speaker of the House of Commons and you, sir, know what a load that can be and what a responsibility. He went on as government leader in the Senate to participate actively as a member of the cabinet of the government of Canada in that capacity.

Many people thought he had completed a career of outstanding service when he received the appointment as Her Majesty's representative here in the province. But this is where we got to know him very well indeed. All of the things that have been said are abundantly true, except perhaps the Premier's feeling that he was beginning to slide back politically a bit. Although he was a great partisan during his elected years, he could always treat politicians and everyone else in this community with the greatest of ease on a person-to-person basis, which is a quality which endeared him to everyone.

As a man, his family is outstanding. They are all well educated and grew up with an appreciation of service to the community which reflects in their many activities right now.

As a politician, he was always extremely successful after his election in 1935. But I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, as a resident of the area which he represented for so many years, of the real love and respect with which Ross Macdonald was held over those years and certainly is held at the present time.

The Premier and the member for York South mentioned his high good humour. Even as a Lieutenant Governor with an endless series of events which took him to all parts of the province, he was always the last to leave, if possible, these great functions. His spirit and enthusiasm certainly put many of us younger participants to shame.

He certainly will be missed. If there was ever a man in public life in this province who is and can be an example to us all, Ross Macdonald is that man. He had a sense of public service which has been unexcelled and an understanding of the real bonds that make the democratic system work which, as I say, must be and can be a great example to us all. He got a great deal out of a great life and always, in my view, by putting all that he had into it. So it is with a great sadness that we realize this has happened and yet with a feeling really of elation that the man's life has been so full and so rewarding to us all.

We want to extend our condolences to the family. He will be missed as a father and grandfather and as a good friend.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, one brief observation: Some of us would regard it as a slide forward rather than a slide backward. I'm sure the late Lieutenant Governor would look at it in that same fashion.

Mr. Speaker, out of respect for, and just as importantly—speaking for those members of the House who did have the privilege of knowing Ross Macdonald—out of our affection for him as an individual, I will move the adjournment of the House.

Hon. Mr. Davis moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

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Ontario. Legislative Assembly

Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Monday, May 31, 1976

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

THE QUEEN'S PRINTER
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, TORONTO
1976

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, MAY 31, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I wish to draw to the attention of members of this House and other persons the book of condolence which has been placed in the rotunda of the library in memory of the late W. Ross Macdonald. The book will be available for signatures until 6 this evening.

DEATH OF MAJOR B. H. GEARY

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, once again this House must note with profound sadness and regret the death of another distinguished servant of our nation and province. Maj. Handley Geary died on Saturday at Niagara-on-the-Lake in the fullness of years and honour.

He served this House as our Sergeant-at-Arms for 24 years, until his retirement in 1972. He carried out these responsibilities with dignity and good humour and he was a friend to all of us who served in this House during these years.

Handley Geary came to public life in Ontario at a time when men normally think of retirement. He had already distinguished himself as a soldier and he wore our country's highest military honour — the Victoria Cross — as evidence of his courage; what his citation called "most conspicuous bravery and determination in holding Hill 60, near Ypres in April, 1915."

He was a fine gentleman, a brave soldier and a distinguished servant of Ontario.

Therefore, I move, on behalf of the Premier (Mr. Davis), seconded by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis), that the House note with regret the passing of Maj. Benjamin Handley Geary, VC, and that we observe one minute of silence in his memory.

On resumption:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

ESSEX PACKERS

Hon. J. R. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I met with representatives of the DeJonge Group last

Friday, May 28, to learn of their actions and intentions regarding the two plants owned by Essex Packers Ltd. in Hamilton.

On May 14, the loan to Essex Packers Ltd. from the Bank of Nova Scotia was retired and the plants were returned by the receiver to Essex Packers. Better Beef arranged to lease the plants from the trustee, Peat Marwick Ltd., and closed them temporarily to take inventory of plant and office equipment and supplies. The inventory was taken by representatives of Better Beef, Essex Packers, and staff of Sid Ray Services Ltd. of Hamilton, a firm engaged in inventory services, possession, etc.

The plants are now operating on a skeleton basis, employing 25 persons, with Better Beef paying all operating expenses.

The DeJonge Group has now determined that it does not wish to operate these plants itself because of their specialized nature, but are keeping the plants operating while it negotiates with prospective tenants or purchasers.

The DeJonges have invested \$500,000 in the purchase of creditors' claims, together with additional investments in operating costs at the plants for over two months, together with legal and accounting fees, etc. This investment is now stated to total approximately \$1.2 million.

This investment can only be fully recovered if the plants are capitalized as fully operational concerns. I believe this remains the best guarantee that they will abide by their commitment to make the plants fully operational once more.

The matter of the claims for separation pay of the former employees of Essex Packers is being reviewed by the trustee in bankruptcy and the Ministry of Labour, having in mind relevant federal and provincial legislation.

I would like to point out that all the affairs of Essex Packers are being administered under the Bankruptcy Act, and are open to complete scrutiny under the supervision of the bankruptcy court and the trustee.

As a result of the information provided in the meeting on Friday and subsequently, I am of the opinion that the DeJonges are seriously attempting to comply with their commitment to provide continued employment in

Essex Packers' Hamilton plants and have considerable financial investment as their surety for doing so. I understand they are engaged in some quite difficult negotiations to bring this about.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that unnecessary harassment can only make this task more difficult and endanger opportunities for employment in the Hamilton plants.

NEW HOME WARRANTY PLAN

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, later today I will be introducing the Ontario New Home Warranties Plan Act, designed to provide major protection for purchasers against the added cost and inconvenience caused by poor workmanship in home construction.

High consumer demand for new housing has resulted in a situation where even houses which are poorly built are readily sold at high prices, although I want to emphasize that the number of complaints is small relative to the number of homes built.

The economics of modern construction place a premium on speed and the use of a number of subcontractors results in conflicting priorities. These are only two of the many circumstances under which mistakes can and do occur.

The risk of purchasing a poorly finished home is bad enough, but some purchasers have been left in a position where a builder went bankrupt, taking a substantial deposit with him. This is another serious problem that must be solved.

Thousands of skilled contractors and builders should not have to suffer a bad image as the result of the incompetence and negligence of the few exceptions. But as long as the public remains unprotected from these few, it will blame the industry as a whole.

A rapid resolution of home buyer complaints is clearly needed and representatives of consumer groups, the building industry, municipalities and the mortgage insuring industry are all agreed upon this point.

The Ontario New Homes Warranties Plan Act provides this solution. It establishes warranty protection with the following features: a warranty that a home is constructed in a workmanlike manner, free of major structural defects, free from defects in materials, fit for habitation, and constructed in accordance with the Ontario Building Code; protection against loss of a buyer's deposit or advance payment made to a builder; a fund to pay compensation and damages arising from a breach of

warranty; a provision that the benefits of the warranty will apply to subsequent owners.

It also appoints a non-profit corporation responsible for administering the warranty and compensation plan and enforcing its requirements. Representatives of the building industry, the Ontario government, the Consumers' Association of Canada and others, will sit on the board of directors of the corporation.

Currently, the unsatisfied home buyer must seek redress through the courts, a costly and time-consuming procedure. With this legislation, he or she will be able to call upon the services of the corporation for conciliation.

The corporation will register all builders who meet requisite standards and registration will be mandatory to operate in Ontario. This means that all new houses built for sale to the Ontario public, with the exception of cottages, rental units and shell housing, will be covered by the warranty plan.

Builders failing to meet the standards will be deregistered but will have the right to appeal to the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal.

The warranty and insurance package will be paid by the builder at a fixed rate for each house. Registered builders will be responsible for repairing any defects in materials or workmanship during the first year after completion. Should the builder default in this responsibility, the corporation will undertake the work at its own expense. During the following four years, the corporation will repair major structural defects.

The intent of this Act is to maintain healthy competition throughout the building industry and to ensure that registration is neither costly nor time-consuming to the individual builder.

We have worked closely with HUDAC in the development of this consumer protection package for buyers of new homes and I would like to congratulate the organization for the spirit of co-operation and innovative thinking which it has exhibited.

Last Friday, the Premier (Mr. Davis) and I travelled to Brampton to launch the programme by presenting the first warranty certificate to the purchaser of a new home.

Considerable time has been devoted to studying the efforts of other jurisdictions to establish similar protection. We feel that the new Ontario legislation will provide more comprehensive home buyer protection than that available anywhere else in Canada.

GRASSY NARROWS RESERVE

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement concerning remarks contained in this morning's Globe and Mail article concerning the operation of a freezer on the Grassy Narrows Indian Reserve, located north of Kenora.

This article quoted the chief of the Grassy Narrows band as stating that a malfunction of the freezer occurred about two weeks ago, that representatives of my ministry had been notified and, I quote: "No one has visited the reserve to do anything about it."

This morning I instructed that an inspection be carried out on this freezer with the servicing representative of the company which holds a contract for its maintenance. I am advised that there is, today, approximately 5,000 pounds of fish rotting in this unit. I am also advised that the freezer was turned off manually and that this unit is in perfect working order.

The Grassy Narrows band has a telephone number to call at any time service is required for this freezer. On one occasion in the past they reported a malfunction, which was also the result of a manual interruption of electrical supply. At no time has this unit gone out of service as a result of malfunction. The service company which holds the maintenance contract for this unit and the freezer at the Whitedog Indian Reserve, has a 24-hour telephone emergency number and no report of a mechanical breakdown was received.

I should point out as well, Mr. Speaker, that at a meeting held on May 20 in Kenora with representatives of the Grassy Narrows and Whitedog Indian bands and representatives of the federal and provincial governments, the Indians reported that there was no fish in the freezer.

On Jan. 5, my ministry stocked the freezing unit with approximately 10,000 pounds of fish purchased by the Ontario government from the Fresh Water Fish Marketing Corp. in Winnipeg at a cost of \$28,037.25. The same amount of fish was purchased for the Whitedog band.

I am also advised that had a mechanical breakdown occurred, fish stored in the freezer would be safe for up to 36 hours because of the way it is packed and that a service call would have taken place within this period of time, as was the case in the one instance that a problem was reported. At my request, my staff are arranging with the Indians to remove the fish from the freezer unit and bury it in a safe place.

Other statements contained in the newspaper concerned the availability of food supplies for this current year. I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that funds are currently available for this continued programme. Two freezing units were acquired by the provincial government at a cost of about \$120,000. In addition to this stocking programme, my ministry has spent almost \$60,000 in salaries and equipment costs to encourage Indians in fishing, at their request.

[2:15]

Other programmes are in place on both these reserves, which have been reported previously in this House. As this is a second instance of apparently deliberate sabotage of this freezer at Grassy Narrows, and because of the importance of the availability of safe protein food for these Indian people, I will ask the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth) to make a complete investigation on this matter and will report back to the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oral questions.

GRASSY NARROWS RESERVE

Mr. Lewis: I'd like to ask a question of the Minister of Natural Resources regarding his statement. Since it's so easy to correct the manual failure he describes, does it not strike the minister as a pretty frightening commentary on the complete breakdown of relationships between the Grassy Narrows band and the government of the Province of Ontario, that several thousand pounds of fish were allowed to rot in that freezer for many days, without either the ministry being notified, according to the minister's statement, or having relationship sufficiently close and with sufficient confidence with the native peoples to be involved almost automatically? Doesn't the minister think he needs to find an alternative policy to those he has undertaken, rather than to engage in some kind of prosecution on Grassy Narrows and undermine what little credibility he has left?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I can't accept the comments that there is a breakdown between the Grassy Narrows and the Whitedog Indian band in relation to this particular ministry. I would have to say to you, sir, that we have an excellent working relationship with that band, as we do with all our native peoples in the northern part of the province.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, wonderful.

Mr. Warner: They love you up there.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: And I'm sure, sir, in your position as Speaker of this Legislature today, you will agree with that particular statement, having complete knowledge of the excellent relationship and working field we have with the native peoples of this province.

Mr. Lewis: They speak warmly of you, Hon. Mr. Bernier.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I have to say to you, sir, that there is a certain amount of onus and responsibility on the native people.

Mr. Lewis: Of course.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: There is excellent communication between Grassy Narrows and the outside world. The telephone communications are excellent, and all we do require is a telephone call. No report was received by the maintenance company, and they are on a 24-hour service. We are as concerned as anyone in this House to make sure that protein food, free of pollution, is available to those native people.

Mr. Roy: That's why it took you four years to do something.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: As I indicated to the House in my statement, this programme will continue; it's fixed, it's there. We've made that commitment to the native peoples and we will continue it and we will honour it.

Mr. Roy: That's right, it took you four years to do something.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary, if I may: Since the reply of the minister certainly speaks to the confusion, can I ask him is he not aware that at the meeting of May 20, which he referred to in his statement, members of his ministry and other ministries, provincial and federal, indicated there was no lake anywhere in the vicinity where fish could be taken with mercury levels sufficiently low to be safe for native peoples' consumption? Is he not aware that his colleague, Rene Brunelle, wrote a letter on April 8 saying effectively that the "Fish for Food" programme was over? How can the minister talk to us about budgeted moneys for alternative protein when the programme has collapsed, when the fish aren't available and when nothing is happening? The native peoples are still eating the fish and so are the guides; and the minister knows it.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I think it would be good, since my name is mentioned, that I would read—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think I would remind the hon. Leader of the Opposition that it's the hon. Minister without Portfolio, or the hon. member for Cochrane North (Mr. Brunelle) when he makes the type of reference he made.

Mr. Lewis: I'm sorry, I think both would apply.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: On Apr. 8, Mr. Speaker, I wrote to Chief Isaac Mandamin of the Whitedog Indian Reserve, and on the bottom of page three, item eight, in reference to alternate sources of protein, this is what I said:

The provincial government does not feel it can provide, without charge, alternative food supplies to the Whitedog Reserve.

Mr. Lewis: What does that mean?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Please listen; I listened to the member, listen to me.

Mr. Lewis: What does that mean?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Take it easy: It continues:

As mentioned, the representative of Agriculture and Food can provide advice for the production of alternative protein sources on the reserve. Furthermore, the increasing development of employment opportunities for reserve residents will provide the necessary income for the purchase of appropriate food supplies.

Now my understanding, Mr. Speaker—and I can be corrected in this—my understanding is about a year ago it was agreed that fish would be provided free of charge to those two Indian reserves. My understanding is that this is still being done; there's no charge for the food.

What the native people are asking for is an alternative protein, for instance like red meat, which is very understandable; and all the meetings we've had so far concern the whole question of providing employment opportunities. I think the hon. Leader of the Opposition will agree with me that the native people would much prefer to work and earn money—

Mr. Lewis: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: —and buy the things they want themselves.

Mr. Lewis: That's right.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: So this is what I'm referring to. This was the alternative source of food and that is why representatives of Agri-

culture and Food and others have been dealing with the question of the Indians having their own cattle, assistance for gardens and other employment opportunities. Again, I'd like to correct the hon. member.

Mr. Lewis: For six years you've talked about it.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: At no time have I or has anyone said that they would not continue to obtain fish free of charge.

Mr. McClellan: If the "Fish for Food" programme is working as well as the two ministers seem to suggest, perhaps they can explain to this House why it was necessary at the meeting on May 20 for Grassy Narrows band and Treaty 3 to ask that the "Fish for Food" programme be reinstated—and it was asked twice—and in response Mr. Herridge replied there are no lakes with fish that are suitable. There's a clear conflict of information that I hope could be cleared up by the minister.

Mr. Warner: Let's have the true goods this time.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I think there is a misunderstanding on the part of the hon. member.

There are two specific programmes; the programme to supply uncontaminated sources of protein such as fish in the freezers is one specific programme.

Mr. McClellan: It's collapsed.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, it has not collapsed. It has definitely not collapsed. It's an ongoing programme. The freezers are in place and they're operating. There's no question with that programme except the malfunction—

Mr. Lewis: They're not eating the fish.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —except the malfunctioning of this particular programme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The particular programme to which the hon. member refers—

Mr. Lewis: This is surreal.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the hon. minister reply specifically to the supplementary from the hon. member for Bellwoods and ignore the interjections?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: What I'm trying to do, Mr. Speaker, is to clarify the two specific programmes. One is to supply an alternate

source of protein, the other is a "Fish for Food" programme whereby the commercial fishermen would be allowed to go and reap their own catch within the bodies of water adjacent to their particular reserves.

Following the tests we did in 1975 the advice of the health authorities indicated to us that that fish provided to those two Indian bands should be below the 0.2 parts per million, because they are heavy consumers of a fish product, to protect them further. There was no fish available in those lakes that had a level below the 0.2 parts per million and this is why we filled the freezers with fish from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board in Winnipeg. They were purchased from lakes in Manitoba that were free of mercury pollution.

So there are two specific programmes.

EMPLOYMENT ON INDIAN RESERVES

Mr. Lewis: A question to the Chairman of Cabinet, if I may: Since the Indians, whatever he has to say about it, are not eating the fish in the freezers and since the "Fish for Food" programme doesn't work and he wants to provide money to buy alternative protein sources, can the minister tell us in the House exactly what are these increasing employment opportunities which he spoke of in his letter? How many additional jobs are available on Whitedog and Grassy Narrows Reserves and in what areas? What has been achieved in the last six months, one year, two years, six years? Can he give it to us?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: First, I'd like to say to the hon. Leader of the Opposition I think he knows as well as I do that on all those remote Indian reserves there are limited employment opportunities and we all agree that as a result of the mercury problem there are even less; there's less guiding and so forth.

At the same time, this is an Indian reserve and a lot of the responsibility lies with the federal government. We acknowledge we also have a provincial responsibility.

Mr. Lewis: You closed down the commercial fishing. It was this government that did it.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: We also have a responsibility in this government and we are living up to it; there have been several meetings to discuss various proposals. In funds alone we have made available—this is not a large amount but it is a substantial amount and more could be made available if necessary—\$50,000 for local initiatives. We are also in-

vestigating forest operations with them, a saw mill; we are also looking into other types of operations in conjunction with other levels of government.

There is no easy answer. It is all right for the members to sit there; it is all very easy to say provide jobs.

Mr. Lewis: Right; there isn't an easy answer.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: It is not easy but it will be done.

We are also looking into tourist establishments, motels, service stations—these are all things which are seriously being looked into with the federal government and with our own government.

Mr. Cassidy: Fifty miles off the highway.

TRI-PARTY APPROACH ON INDIAN PROBLEMS

Mr. Lewis: I have one last question I would like to put—maybe we can come back to this tomorrow, but I would like to put the question to the House leader who is in charge of the Indian community secretariat.

Given the continuing and depressing fiasco around Grassy Narrows and Whitedog might he discuss with the Premier (Mr. Davis) the following proposition: That a member of this Legislature be appointed from the government side—or that members of each of the three political parties be appointed who transcend the normal partisan considerations, who have regard within the House—and they be given a term of reference, extending over a six or eight-month period, to provide the focus and the channel to overcome many of the problems at Whitedog and Grassy Narrows which, for whatever reason, for the last six years have stymied all of us; and finally allow some politicians, with respect, to deal with the civil service and with the various levels of governments and get the situation resolved—or there will be a disaster at Grassy Narrows and Whitedog?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, obviously, having been asked if I would discuss something with the Premier, I would be quite willing to discuss matters with the Premier.

I think, in fairness to those who have now responded to questions, it should be pointed out that the government does recognize some need to co-ordinate an overall approach to our native peoples. Indeed, this has resulted in the appointment of the Chairman of Cabinet (Mr. Brunelle) with some specific responsibilities for native people generally. I would

be very pleased to make sure that he and the Premier have the benefit of the discussion and the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the hon. Leader of the Opposition have any further questions?

Mr. Lewis: I have taken too much time; thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If not, the hon. member for Hamilton West.

ELECTRIC KETTLES

Mr. S. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The first question is of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. In light of the statement released—I guess it was last week—by the Canadian Standards Association about kettles made by Eastern Tool and Mfg. Co., I believe, which exploded or caused electric shock, can he tell us what steps his ministry is prepared to take in assisting the CSA and informing anyone who might have purchased these kettles about the potential danger they face?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I think I have said on many occasions that the question of product safety is one which quite properly belongs in the federal government's hands. It has a Hazardous Products Act; it has supervision over the Canadian Standards Association. The particular problem the hon. member mentions has been brought to my attention but we have absolutely no jurisdiction to do something at a provincial level which should be done on a national level.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary: If the federal department is not acting properly in this regard, do I take it that the minister's own department will be making representation to it to act swiftly. Can the minister—or will he—make his ministry available to the CSA to assist it in informing residents of Ontario whose health might be endangered by this particular hazardous product?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, first of all, we have no expertise within our ministry concerning hazardous products. I have not suggested that the federal government is not acting properly. I am sure it is aware of its responsibilities under the relevant Act. Certainly we are prepared to assist in any way possible. I will be meeting with Mr. Makasey within a few days and I will draw it to his attention.

IMPORTED GRAPE-VINES

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food: In view of the statement made recently by the chairman of the Ontario Grape Producers' Marketing Board, regarding the fact that in his opinion imported grapevine stock has in some instances had a 70 per cent infection rate which, he says, lessens the whole grape growing industry, what action has the minister's department taken to ensure that Agriculture Canada does not give exemptions for infected grape stock to come into the grape growing area of this province in order to protect our industry from the virus?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I am not fully familiar with the matter except to say that at our Vineland station we have some very capable people who keep a very close eye on all the grape varieties coming in and replacement grape crops in our programme are now in place. I am not aware of any high rate of virus such as the member is talking about but I will look into it and get back to him.

[2:30]

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, and so that we can make sure that we have an informed discussion, is the minister aware of the statement made by Mr. Moyer, who is the chairman of that particular board, who says, as quoted in "Farm and Country" I believe, that the exemptions granted by Agriculture Canada are irresponsible? He says one unnamed winery this year imported material with a 70 per cent infection rate. He goes on to say that if there is just one virus outbreak we will be looking for a wine or grape industry. Why should we knowingly be importing diseased stock? Would the minister please look into that and report to the House what his findings are?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, Ron Moyer is a very fine person. I know him very well personally and I wholeheartedly agree that if he has a problem we will look at it. If Agriculture Canada is doing something wrong, we will be the first to let them know.

Mr. Shore: Any friend of yours is a friend of mine.

LABOUR RATES OF ONTARIO
HYDRO MOVING CONTRACTOR

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Minister of Energy, Mr. Speaker, a brief one: Could

the minister bring us up to date on the situation with the Hydro moving contract we discussed some time ago, wherein he admitted that a false statement had been made to Hydro and signed by the moving company—Tippet-Richardson, I believe it was? Could he bring us up to date on what has happened there and whether any charges have been laid and how the matter has resolved itself?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I answered an earlier question several weeks ago in the House. I thought the member was here but, if not, I can send him a copy of my answer. Ontario Hydro was still holding back several tens of thousands of dollars on the last payment of the contract until it was resolved.

Mr. S. Smith: What happened?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: So far as I know, it still stands at that point but I will check again.

ESSEX PACKERS

Mr. S. Smith: I have a question of the Minister of Correctional Services: I would like to know what the minister meant by protecting Better Beef from harassment? What form of harassment has occurred? Has he received, in his conversations with the DeJonge Group, any guarantee that the Employment Standards Act is not going to be circumvented and that anyone who ordinarily would deserve severance pay will not be deprived of it because of the layoff which was engineered in this particular occasion?

Hon. J. R. Smith: Mr. Speaker, in response to the question, really, what I meant by harassment, I was referring to remarks which have been made by the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell). The state of the matter is that the DeJonge-Better Beef group is basically—

Mr. Singer: The member for Huron-Middlesex is a harasser—my goodness.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The minister has them chirping over there.

Hon. J. R. Smith: The DeJonge brothers are actively carrying on negotiations—

Mr. Roy: Is that parliamentary?

Hon. J. R. Smith: —apparently with a number of business concerns, business people, who are interested in taking over one or both of the Hamilton plants either by purchase or by

lease. The more it is discussed in the Legislature—that there's something wrong with the assignment of the lease of the abattoir at Guelph correctional centre—it certainly makes those interested in this very nervous. It was felt by the DeJonges that the more that is said about it, the value of these properties goes down. By the word "harassment" I don't mean any personal harassment but continual statements that there should be a judicial inquiry is causing concern to the principals of Better Beef; that would be a better way of putting it. Secondly, there is—

Mr. Shore: A supplementary question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: A supplementary from the hon. member for London South.

Mr. S. Smith: He is still answering the first question.

Hon. J. R. Smith: I would like to answer both parts, Mr. Speaker, if I could, please. On Friday I spoke to the solicitor, Mr. Herman Turkstra of Hamilton and one of the DeJonge brothers about my concern and that of the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) that there could be some circumvention of the statutes regarding severance pay and to ensure that they were not trying to do anything of that nature.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Riddell: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that I was the one responsible for harassing the DeJonges. I would like to say that, surely, in the interests of and for the protection of my constituents I have every right to pursue the matter. Furthermore if the minister would get up and give us honest answers in this House we wouldn't have to keep pursuing this.

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. J. R. Smith: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. No member of this House can accuse another member of being dishonest and I think you should withdraw it.

Mr. Riddell: I will change that from an honest to a complete answer, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That's acceptable.

Mr. Roy: Is the minister going to apologize?

ESSEX PACKERS

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Correctional Services if the government was aware of the intention of the DeJonge brothers to shed this portion of the operations when they shared in or at least approved the agreement? And if he wasn't aware of it, is it not his obligation to insist that the DeJonge brothers maintain the operation of this plant and not lay off the people until they find somebody who will take it over from them?

Hon. J. R. Smith: They gave a commitment they would do everything possible to continue the operations of the old Essex firm in Hamilton. Basically, at the request of the receiver, they did this for two months and I think they explored the possibilities. With their business knowledge and financial resources they put a real effort into providing employment; there are approximately 90 to 100 employees of that operation. They have lost money on the venture and they are now of the opinion that it takes some operating expertise because of the specialized nature of a processing plant and there are a number of people interested in assuming these responsibilities.

Should this not occur during the next two to three weeks, Mr. DeJonge informs me, because of their commitment—it's over \$1 million into the venture so far—they will be obliged, because of the commitment to the bank, to start up production on their own.

Mr. MacDonald: Good.

Mr. Shore: Mr. Speaker, through you I'd like to ask the opposite side of this question. Has the minister assured himself there is not going to be the possibility of quick, non-earned profit that may take place in the transfer between DeJonge and some other parties in a very quick order?

Mr. Cassidy: But you're in favour of that.

Hon. J. R. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I am unable to answer that question.

LOANS TO MILK PRODUCERS

Mr. Gaunt: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Is the minister aware that some banks in the Province of Ontario are not aware of the deferment plan for the IMPIP programme?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, if that's the case I'd like to hear about the particular banks. We've talked to all the banks; if they

have not informed the appropriate branches there is something wrong with them. But I'd certainly like to hear about it if there is not.

We've had discussions with them and I was of the understanding that they were all fully aware of the situation. If you've got a particular situation I'd like to hear about it so I can pursue it.

JOB CREATION

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) and the Premier (Mr. Davis), I would like to direct a question to the Chairman of Cabinet. I assume he is aware that his colleague, the Treasurer, projected in his budget that new jobs would increase this year by double the rate of last year. In view of the increase in unemployment by all statistics that we now have, and particularly last week's report from Statistics Canada whereby job openings are 22 per cent below last year at this time and two-thirds of that shrinkage is in Ontario, may I ask him what plans the cabinet is proposing to implement some special job creation?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to bring this to the attention of the hon. Treasurer.

Mr. Swart: Supplementary: Do I assume then from the minister's answer that no consideration has been given by the cabinet to special job creation? And would he therefore convey to the cabinet that this party at least wants some special action on this matter and we think we're speaking for the people of Ontario in doing so?

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Mr. Mancini: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question of the Minister of Education. Is the Minister of Education aware of the fact that the Essex County Separate School Board and other separate school boards across this province are laying off experienced teachers and are now hiring inexperienced teachers? And what is this ministry going to do about this?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that certain school boards across this province have indicated that they will not be renewing probationary contracts with their teachers. This is in the separate school area.

This was indicated to me on Friday by the secretary of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers and at a meeting between the On-

tario Teachers' Federation any myself. I indicated at that time that we would, along with them, attempt to find out the reason and what is happening in these particular boards. But I brought it to my friend's attention that the matter of hiring teachers is between the local boards, which have a high degree of autonomy, and the teachers whom they hire.

Mr. Mancini: Supplementary: Is the minister aware that the Essex County Separate School Board and other separate school boards are using the green contract for the purpose of mass layoffs and not for the purpose of dismissing incompetent teachers. Would he look into that aspect of the situation?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think, Mr. Speaker, it is perhaps wrong to draw that complete assumption at this time. There may be other factors involved. Probationary teachers' contracts can be severed without giving reasons, as my friend knows, under the education Acts of this province; and that, in fact, is what we were going to look at when the facts were brought to our attention last Friday by the Ontario Teachers' Federation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: A final supplementary; the hon. member for Hamilton West.

Mr. S. Smith: Would the minister not agree that the probationary contract ending is normally meant to take into account those situations where the teacher proved unsuitable and is not meant as a way of getting around the fact that a firm contract has been signed with new teachers; and the green contract is less firm and, therefore, open to be cancelled? Isn't that a distortion of the purpose of the green contract?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Certainly, Mr. Speaker, it is a distortion of the contract; but it also remains that it is not necessary to give reasons to a person when the green contract is severed. You only have to state reasons to the teacher when you are severing a permanent contract, not a probationary contract.

Mr. S. Smith: But it is a distortion.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN EASTERN ONTARIO

Mr. Samis: I have a question of the Minister of Industry and Tourism, Mr. Speaker. In view of the continuing high unemployment in the Kingston-Brockville-Cornwall axis, and in view of the fact that in the past nine months three plants have been closed and last week closing of a fourth one was announced in Cornwall; can the minister tell

the House what efforts his ministry is making to assist the municipalities in that area to attract industry, especially in view of the special problems in that area?

An hon. member: The answer is none.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: First of all, Mr. Speaker, on the plant closings, you will recall that on May 3 I made a statement to this House related to what we consider to be the real cause of the problem down there, and that is in the textile industry.

We have been consulting with the federal government on the question. While they are temporarily closed, I believe that if the market position was made favourable for them those plants would return to production in a short period of time. In addition to that, as far as working with municipalities is concerned we continue to consult with them in order to assist them, along with their development officers, to locate industries that would be properly located in their communities.

Mr. Samis: Supplementary: May I point out that in the case of Cornwall three of the plants have nothing to do with textiles?

I would also like to ask the minister if he could bring us up to date on what is being done in Spencerville; if the consultants are at work, when that report is expected and if the government is making any other efforts to develop the Spencerville project?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, about two or three weeks ago I announced that the consultants had been appointed for the Spencerville project and that we anticipated by late summer we would have a complete report from them on the facts and figures as they relate to the Spencerville project and the possibilities of development.

RENT REVIEW PROGRAMME

Mr. Shore: I would like to direct a question to the almost converted socialist minister—I guess Hamilton must have had a great effect on him—the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Hon. J. R. Smith: Good Tory city.

Mr. Samis: You don't know him very well.

Mr. Shore: Is the minister aware of a property owner in London who recently applied to the Ontario Supreme Court for an injunction and a prohibition against the rent review officer for not giving proper 30-day notice on rent reviews? If so, has he also been

advised that other owners have been advised to follow the same principle and hold up any rent review?

In addition, in view of the fact that I have talked to the minister on several occasions, is he aware that the rent review officers are not taking into consideration at any time the investments and dollars that owners have in these properties when they are making rulings on rent review. Could the minister comment on those three questions, please?

[2:45]

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, there was a comment and two questions, I believe, in the hon. member's question. First of all, I want to deny completely that I am almost socialized or even close to being socialized; I wake up screaming at the thought that it might ever happen.

I am aware of the fact that actions have been taken by some landlords concerning the failure of rent review officers to select a date for a hearing within 30 days. It wasn't necessary under the Act to give 30 days' notice, but it was necessary for rent review officers to select a date for a hearing within 30 days of the receipt of the application. We have a number of cases pending on that, and until such time as we get a judgement from the courts I would prefer not to comment, except to say that we have instructed the rent review officers to make their selection of the hearing dates within 30 days of the receipt of application in the future. We don't know what the results would be if the court were to find against us in that case.

As far as the second question is concerned, which is completely unrelated to the first one, the answer is no.

Mr. Shore: What was the answer? That the minister is not aware of it? Would he please undertake to do something about it?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I'm not aware of the fact that the rent review officers are not permitting a return on investment simply because the Act doesn't provide for it.

METRIC PACKAGING

Mr. MacDonald: A question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, who confessed last week that he has growing disillusionment with the free-enterprise system. I don't know whether that makes him a socialist or not.

My question to him is this: In view of the repeated evidence of cheating that is going

on in the processing and food retailing business by reducing the quantity and increasing the price as they switch from traditional weights to the metric system, what, if anything, is the government doing about it? Specifically, will they pass a law that there will be penalties if there is cheating by reducing the amount and raising the price as they switch to the metric system?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: First of all, the accusation that there is cheating going on, I think is completely off the cuff and without any foundation whatsoever. What the hon. member is suggesting is that when the size is reduced in terms of quantity of the product, there should be a pro rata reduction in the price of that product, but quite obviously the cost of the product is made up of more than simply the raw material cost. If I may use cereal as an example, if you buy the large economy size, which contains twice as much as the small size, you don't get a reduction pro-rated in accordance with the size; it simply doesn't happen. If you buy the small size, you pay more than one-half the amount you would pay for double that quantity in a package; that's simply because there are packaging costs, promotion costs and a variety of other costs involved in the manufacture of that product, and not simply the raw material cost.

Mr. MacDonald: Would the minister not fudge the issue? Take the example reported on the front page of the Globe last Thursday or Friday, where a two-litre package is 12 per cent less than a half-gallon—in other words, that isn't a significant change from an economy size to a small package—and yet the price is only six per cent less. There is 12 per cent less product, but the price is only six per cent less. Will the government do something about making it mandatory that you can't have that kind of obvious cheating on the public as they switch to the metric system?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had explained that to the hon. member, but I guess he's called that fudging.

Mr. MacDonald: The minister ignored the facts.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It's simply an economic fact that the cost of a product is more than simply the cost of the materials in that product. The member must be aware of the fact that when you buy a different size, you don't get a pro-rated difference in the retail price. That certainly doesn't seem like cheating to me. We did inquire into it and we

found that the total reduction in cost was being passed on to the consumer.

Mr. Warner: You don't care what they charge.

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Huron-Middlesex seemed to have a question.

Mr. Riddell: My minister has left, sir.

POLITICAL ADVERTISING

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to ask a question of the same minister in line with his frustration with private enterprise and the gap, sometimes, between advertising and performance. Would the minister, as the protector of the consumer, look at the advertising and promises made by certain political parties, including his own? The Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, in their fund-raising, make a promise, and I quote: "It also intends to reduce the provincial debt, to keep the province on a sound financial footing." I wonder if the minister might compare that with the budget figures which came out a few months ago and which indicate that the provincial debt has gone from \$1.5 billion in 1970-1971 to \$5.9 billion in 1976-1977?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Can we have the question, please?

Mr. Roy: Yes. Will the minister, as Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations or as the protector of the consumer, look at this as being false and misleading advertising as the debt has gone up and not down, as promised in this letter?

Mr. S. Smith: Another Vic Tanny's.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, it's quite true that I have been disillusioned with some advertising claims but I want to make it quite clear that the one organization that I have every faith in to carry out its promises is the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario.

Mr. Roy: If I might ask the minister a supplementary, in view of his answer: Since this advertising has gone out that he intends to reduce the provincial debt, is he aware that the budget has come out showing that the increase in the provincial debt has gone from \$5 billion to \$5.9 billion? How does that compare with his advertising? Is the minister not prepared to protect the con-

sumer and give a proper example by his party, if he intends to lecture private enterprise?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, the budget papers to which the hon. member refers prove the truth of the advertising of this party.

Mr. Roy: Is it up or down? I tell you, we are in trouble with you as minister if you can't even add.

Mr. Lewis: Albert, you should pick up the mace and advance on him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The contents of the previous question can be debated in the budget debate.

ONTARIO SOUVENIRS

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Government Services. We've all received the hon. minister's entry into the mail order business with her handsome giftware catalogue of Ontario souvenir items. I would like to ask, since the catalogue came with a covering letter addressed specially to cabinet ministers and executive assistants to ministers, as well as to other MPPs, is it the intention of the minister in issuing this catalogue to encourage ministries to provide gifts to visitors at public expense, or is this purely a private catalogue? Is she encouraging gifts at public expense to the value of \$110 for an Ontario pendant, or \$77.50 for a pair of cufflinks, or \$59.60 for a ring? At this time of restraint I certainly think that that should not be encouraged.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member has asked the question.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, as the member noted when she prefaced her remarks, that memo was addressed to cabinet ministers, their deputies and members. It's for their personal and individual ordering.

Mr. Roy: Oh, maybe it's for cabinet ministers only.

Mr. Lewis: It's a very elitist mail order business the minister is running.

ACCIDENT SPOT ON QEW

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I have further information in connection with a question asked in the House on May 20 by the hon. member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio), who I see is with us this morning.

Mr. S. Smith: It is afternoon, Jim.

Mr. Mancini: He is usually here.

Hon. Mr. Snow: As a matter of fact, the last time I replied to this question the hon. member was not here.

Mr. Breithaupt: That's the St. Catharines one you are thinking of.

Mr. Shore: He tries to be here when you are not here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Would you please give a direct answer to the question that was asked?

Mr. Sweeney: He knew you were going to speak.

Hon. Mr. Snow: The Queen Elizabeth Way between Highway 405 and Mountain Rd., known locally as Sand Plant Hill, has a narrow median which is occupied by a railway bridge pier.

In order to reduce the possibility of cross-median accidents and of collisions with the bridge pier, 4,000 ft of steel beam guiderail will be installed this summer at a cost of some \$80,000, with anticipated completion by September of this year.

Ministry engineers anticipate that the installation of the steel beam guiderail will alleviate the accident experience at this location. However, we will continue to monitor the situation after the installation of the guiderail.

SCHOOL FACILITIES IN YORK

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, the member for York Centre (Mr. Stong) asked me last week a question concerning education facilities in the German Mills community. As my friend knows, there's a public school there called the German Mills Public School that was opened in 1974. It has several portables on site now and has an enrolment of around 600. The projections for that area indicate that next year there will be around 700 pupils—that is, in September, 1976—in September, 1977, there will be 750 and in September, 1978, there will be 880 pupils. These are the projections of the York County Board of Education.

It is my understanding that that board is going to submit in September a proposal for a new school for that area to be built and opened by September, 1978, and that at that time that school will house the pupils who up

until then will be housed in portables at the present German Mills Public School.

The other matter that would be of concern in the area is that the separate school board has a relocatable on-site called St. Michael's Roman Catholic Separate School. It has a capacity of 273 pupils and is filled at the present time. That board has submitted a project of very high priority for 485 pupils. They are going to need that as soon as possible. It is one of several that the York County Roman Catholic Separate School Board had submitted and that were held up in the embargo placed on all 1976 projects at the beginning of this year. That list is being studied at present, and if there is real need in that area, as I'm sure there will be from what I have learned, that project will probably move ahead very shortly.

ABORTION STUDIES

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Education: Is the minister aware of the very strong objection registered by Robert Scott, a trustee of the Etobicoke Board of Education, to the inclusion of a compulsory study of abortion methods in the phys-ed programme for grades 9 and 10 of that school system?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the physical education programme that is being taught in grades 9 and 10 of the Etobicoke school system. As my friend knows, under the physical education guidelines, there is a high degree of latitude allowed for local boards to develop their own programmes. I would say the responsibility for approving those programmes rests ultimately with the local trustees, in this case the Etobicoke Board of Education.

I think in a number of speeches that I have made to physical education teachers I have emphasized time and time again that, while there are many topics that could be taught in the area of physical education, family life, training and so forth, the utmost discretion must be taken to be sure the programmes represent the feelings and the wishes of the parents in the community that those schools serve. In this particular case, if the parents in the community represented by trustee Scott feel that what is being done in Etobicoke is not right, the place for that to be taken is to the board.

Mr. Sweeney: Supplementary to the minister: At the present time a student is faced with either taking the course as is, or no

phys-ed. Would his ministry approve that particular situation?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I personally would not approve that situation. I don't think someone who has a particular, real, serious concern about that type of programme being taught—either the parent of the student or the student himself being taught that programme—should be placed in jeopardy of not taking a complete physical education programme.

But the real remedy for that rests with the Etobicoke Board of Education, and I would hope they would show the concern to be able to work that kind of programme out. If we can't work these programmes out on the local level with the local people who are charged with that responsibility, autonomy in this province means nothing.

HOSPITAL LAUNDRIES

Mr. Ziemba: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Revenue. Why are Ontario's 11 hospital-owner laundries not exempt from, or reimbursed for property taxes, as are hospitals?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, this matter has been gone into time and time again. I am trying to think of the name of the gentleman—it was Ralph Cowan—who has been in touch with me and with my predecessor in this ministry on numerous occasions. We have investigated this and on every occasion have concluded that with the structure of ownership in the particular laundries concerned, there is no qualification for exemption under the Retail Sales Tax Act. [3:00]

RONDEAU PROVINCIAL PARK

Mr. Spence: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. Has the minister received the report of the advisory committee that was set up by him two years ago in regard to the operation of Rondeau Provincial Park?

Mr. Shore: Too early, isn't it?

Mr. Spence: Has the minister accepted or adopted this advisory committee's report? Will he make available those portions of or all of the advisory committee's report that have been adopted or have not been adopted?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to respond to the hon. member. As

he points out, there was a 16-member committee, very ably chaired by Garnet Newkirk—I believe that was his name, and I think that I will take this opportunity to commend him on an excellent report. About 104 recommendations were presented to my ministry.

Mr. Roy: Have you accepted them all?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: To date we've accepted 89 of those. Nine have been referred for future study.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: A total of six have not been accepted. I'll say to the hon. member that copies of the advisory committee reports are available. If he'll just tell me the numbers I'll be pleased to get it for him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Mr. Edighoffer from the standing miscellaneous estimates committee reported the following resolution:

Resolved: That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Office of the Provincial Auditor be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977:

Office of the Provincial Auditor	
Administration of the Audit	
Act and statutory audits....	\$1,593,000

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Motions.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that Mr. Eaton be substituted for Mr. Gregory on the select committee considering the fourth and fifth reports of the Ontario Commission on the Legislature.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Peterson: Not acceptable, he will ruin it.

Mr. S. Smith: Don't you care about that committee?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Introduction of bills.

ONTARIO NEW HOME WARRANTIES PLAN ACT

Hon. Mr. Handleman moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to provide certain Protections for Purchasers of New Homes.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Renwick: The Minister of Revenue (Mr. Meen) isn't in favour of that.

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I wish to table the answers to questions 19, 86 and 91 standing on the notice paper. (See appendix, page 2780).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The 16th order, House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND RECREATION (continued)

On vote 2803:

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Is it the wish of the committee to take the vote in its entirety or item by item?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think we were into this vote.

Mr. Samis: We were on the first item. I think I have just two final questions on that item, while my Liberal colleague can ask any questions he'd like.

(Could I ask the minister if he has reconsidered at all the position he took last year regarding requiring publicly-financed institutions to purchase books from local suppliers as has been instituted in the Province of Quebec quite successfully I understand? Has he given any further consideration to that method of assisting Canadian publishers?)

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry, I missed the first part of the question. Would the hon. member repeat it?

Mr. Samis: Yes. Could I ask the minister if he has given any further consideration to his position as enunciated last year, which was opposed to the idea of Bill 69 in the Province of Quebec whereby publicly-funded institutions are obliged to give priority to purchasing books from domestic wholesalers and publishers? Has he given any further consideration to that priority?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think I have to be very frank and say we certainly haven't developed any particular policy response to that at the moment.

Mr. Samis: In view of the statistics brought out by the Independent Publishers Associa-

tion—which are a bit dated admittedly but apparently are the most recent—that in school libraries only 12 per cent of the books are Canadian in origin; in public libraries the figure is eight per cent; in university libraries it's five per cent; and knowing the minister's concern for this, is he making any efforts with his colleagues in the Ministries of Colleges and Universities and Education, and in public libraries, to try to see that there is greater attention given to Canadian books; and if so, what?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think that's a very good point to underline. Certainly, if the hon. member wants to discuss it in the Wintario section, we have special criteria there by which we make money available for libraries to increase their stocks of Canadian publications and Canadian books. Certainly we did have some special response as far as the libraries were concerned in that regard. Naturally library boards, being autonomous groups, are making certain determinations themselves with respect to their acquisitions but you'd have every encouragement from us, in a financial way—particularly in the Wintario programme—to assist libraries to increase their Canadian editions.

Mr. Samis: Since the minister has mentioned the Wintario project, could I ask if he has given serious consideration to the possibility of entrusting the Arts Council with administering a certain fixed percentage or sum of the total Wintario funds for cultural projects? For example, in my remarks I suggested a figure of \$5 million as a ballpark figure. Has he given any consideration to that?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Actually, when we get to that vote I'd be quite happy to share with the hon. member the fact that we've been doing an awful lot of thinking in connection with how we might change or add to or expand the criteria as far as Wintario is concerned. There's no doubt there's been a number of approaches with respect to how we might best assist various agencies with respect to fulfilling their purposes.

I should point out to the hon. member at this stage that when we analyse and give consideration to Wintario applications there's a very close working relationship now with the Arts Council and we are making the distinction with respect to the sources of money. I have no plans at the moment actually to make a block transfer of funds to them. I rather think we should keep the whole operation within the ministry and we will consult with them, as we are doing on an ongoing

basis, with respect to those areas to which they feel there could be some financial help directed.

I think we'll accomplish the same purpose. It's just a matter of procedure.

Mr. Samis: I'll come back to that question when we get onto Wintario. Could I ask, regarding the Arts Council—first of all, I'd like to reiterate our view that the Arts Council has done an outstanding job in discharging its responsibilities and we wholeheartedly support the principle of having people within the community affected administering the funds rather than having them administered through the ministry and other people. Could I ask if the minister could explain why the regional development offices in Thunder Bay and Niagara Falls were closed? How many are there left in existence and how many were there as of a year ago?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Of course, the Arts Council doesn't maintain regional offices as such. It has had some type of field operation known as correspondents and I'm wondering if the hon. member is making some reference to that, rather using the term regional offices?

Mr. Samis: Unfortunately, I haven't got my OAC report with me. In the OAC report it was specifically mentioned that those two regional offices had been closed. I'm sorry I haven't got the actual title of those offices.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think those particular offices were simply opened on an experimental basis and the Arts Council took a decision to have its field operation conducted in another way rather than through fixed offices by the employment of what they call correspondents.

Mr. Samis: I noticed in that description it said that they would rely on the regional correspondents and the justification given was "they provide greater insight into the individual character and priorities of specific communities." I wonder if the minister could explain how officers do a better job than having offices right in the region itself, among the people?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think it gives some flexibility. I think the emphasis is on the individual, who is available to be consulted or to consult, rather than having necessarily a fixed address with an office and all that's involved with this. I think, too, there are some obvious savings in not having to maintain an office as such, and we have our field personnel or the correspondents available throughout the province and they are not fixed to any particular address. I think the Arts

Council has exercised a great deal of wisdom in moving to this type of approach.

Keep in mind that the Ministry of Culture and Recreation has its field operations and there is, indeed, a fixed address throughout the various regions of the province where there can be contact made, and the people at those locations would know how, in fact, to get in touch with the regional correspondents as well.

Mr. Samis: Could I ask the minister, have you had any personal dialogue with your counterpart east of the Ottawa River—personal, not through your officials?

Hon. Mr. Welch: No.

Mr. Samis: Do you intend to?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes, I am always anxious to speak to my colleagues.

Mr. Samis: Soon?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Sure, any time.

Mr. Samis: Would you consider an operation that he employs and is rather fond of? The idea would be that within the overall provincial council they have designated in the Province of Quebec nine regional sub-councils and 20 per cent of the total budget for their Arts Council is divided among those councils to be distributed according to their view of the regional needs, problems and priorities. Would you see value in that system of regional councils within the overall structure being applied to this province? Or have you given this consideration?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I would have to seek the advice of the Arts Council itself. I have had no evidence placed before me that the Arts Council, operating in its present form, with regional correspondents and a tremendous amount of input going both ways—that is, from the council out to the province and from the province in to the Arts Council—has, in fact, had too many difficulties in reacting to a legitimate need throughout the province.

In the name of equity, from the standpoint of the distribution of resources and the availability of resources, I certainly am not aware that anyone feels that there is any particular concern there.

In Ontario today there is a number of local councils unrelated to the Arts Council as such; that is, community arts councils that have been forming on their own, bringing together various groups and co-ordinating

the activities, and I am sure they are finding a way to relate to the Arts Council as well.

At the moment—and I haven't closed my mind to this—I don't see formalizing that type of regional approach that you have just described. I would rather see things continue to develop from the local communities and the local level than to deal directly with the Province of Ontario Council for the Arts. I would have to have some further evidence that there are some regional differences or disparities or inequities that aren't being responded to now that could be better handled that way if, in fact, it was to be handled that way.

Mr. Samis: Can I ask the minister if he could check into another matter? I don't expect the answer now, but could he find out why a periodical from Sherbrooke, Que., received a \$2,000 grant? The name of the periodical is "Ellipse."

Also could you bring us up to date on the status of the three pilot projects that were initiated I believe by the Arts Council in publishing, dealing with the supply of Canadian books in Canadian book stores, the use of Canadian books in the school system and the Canadian book information centre? Have you received those three reports from the pilot projects, or what is the status of those projects?

Hon. Mr. Welch: No, I have not received those reports as yet.

Mr. Samis: When are they due?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Of course, in this environment in which I work I think it is more important that things be done well, and if the choice is "Do you want it Wednesday or do you want it done well?" I always answer: "I want it done well."

Mr. Samis: I would ask when?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I don't have any particular deadline and I will be glad to share the results once I have them.

Mr. Samis: There is no deadline? Could I ask one final question—

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think there may well be a deadline—I am getting a communication that may suggest it. In fact, on second thought, those particular reports are due at the end of June.

[3:15]

Mr. Samis: Thank you. One final question: Could you explain to us on the third item,

why it is that the Ontario Science Centre is still under your aegis—

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. If we are going to take these item by item, shall item 1 carry?

Mr. Samis: I thought the agreement was, Mr. Chairman, we would do them all at once.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: We are taking them collectively?

Mr. Samis: That's the way we have been doing it so far, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: All right.

Mr. Samis: Final question: Why is the Science Centre still under your aegis and Ontario Place still under the Ministry of Industry and Tourism? There would seem to be a certain inconsistency, since they are both similar type attractions. Are they all going to eventually be under you or are you going to opt this one over to your confrere?

Hon. Mr. Welch: It would be presumptuous of me to indicate I have any great plans of empire building, but certainly at the moment this is as far as the assignment of responsibility has gone with respect to the Science Centre.

I am quite open to admit there are activities at Ontario Place, particularly the programmes at the Forum, which are obviously of a cultural nature and, indeed, provide a tremendous opportunity for many people to have access to those particular programmes—but at the moment, in its wisdom, the government has felt it best to leave that responsibility with the Ministry of Industry and Tourism.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall vote 2803 carry?

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Chairman, I haven't related to this particular vote as yet. The hon. member for Cornwall was just summing up and concluding his remarks and questions relating to this vote.

I would like to address myself to two particular areas in this vote. As long as we are handling the three items on one vote, I would open by suggesting that I have some concern in turning over grants to the Ontario Arts Council, which in turn are sent down to other art groups. It puts the Legislature in a position that it's very difficult to really trace the funding right through to the point where we can convince ourselves that the grants were

put to the use for which they were initially intended.

I have some concern, not having the report in front of me. If it were something similar to the Heritage Foundation report, it would disturb me to find reserve funds in some of these grants as they are passed down, and great sums of money tied up in such a way that it would be better used through the general funding of the province.

So by way of a question, I would ask the minister in regard to these particular grants going down through the ministry to the Arts Council and, subsequently to, say Theatre Ontario, do we in fact have reports all the way down the line so that we can subsequently determine whether all these funds are used in the way they were intended?

Mr. Minister, if you would respond later, I would go through everything I have, because with the restraints in time I think we are going to have a difficult time dealing with all these votes.

I would like to relate in the arts part of the programme to a matter of particular interest to one of my colleagues. He wasn't able to be here, so I would like to just make mention of the film part of our arts in this regard. The Council of Canadian Film Makers has made some comment relating to this industry in the province. The council believes there's both profit and purpose to the development and support of an indigenous English-Canadian film industry, and that we in this province are certainly not taking advantage of the market interest indicated by Hollywood films. For many years Hollywood films have maintained a higher interest in Canada than almost anywhere else in the world. In fact, as recently as 1975 their export to Canada was the second highest. In 1974 it was highest, in 1973 second; and so on through the past eight or 10 years in that industry Canada has ranked very high. It is of some great concern to the industry, as they suggest and ask, that the legislation that will allow the films to compete on an even footing in our own market is elementary, essential and easy to implement. It is a product of several years of collective thinking within the industry and represents a solid consensus of that industry as well as strong support from the public, press and other levels of government.

We would ask then, is it possible to legislate protection of their market, guarantee a return from the Canadian box office in the way of a levy and get the co-ordination of the Ontario government in the art aspect of the film-making industry?

As I said before, because of the restraints on time I would like to ask a couple of other pertinent questions in regard to this vote. One of them relates to arts development. I'd like to know how it differs from the grants for culture support and multiculturalism and who receives these grants of approximately \$400,000.

Mr. Samis: That's not in this vote.

Mr. Kerrio: I think it is; isn't it in the Arts Council?

Mrs. Campbell: It is indeed in this vote.

Mr. Samis: Next vote.

Mr. Kerrio: In item 1?

Mrs. Campbell: Cultural development.

Mr. Kerrio: All right?

Mr. Samis: Okay.

Mr. Kerrio: Last year there was no such category, Mr. Minister, and no such grants. I'd also like to know why the grants for cultural exchange have increased some \$100,000 over last year. Those are the matters that I'd like to relate to, if you will respond to them. As I said before, I don't think we can go through this point by point or we won't finish this debate in the allotted time.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, may I respond to the hon. member for Niagara Falls, perhaps starting where he left off.

The last time we were into these estimates we were sharing, without going through the whole list, a series of capital grants provided in this particular area. There was everything from \$140,000 for the Blue Mountain concert shell in Collingwood to \$6,000 for the Global Village Theatre in Toronto and the Orillia Opera House, just to pick out a number of these commitments and other proposals that were made there. These grants, as you can see, are in the arts area. When we get to multicultural support, you will see how the criteria there are obviously geared for different purposes.

The hon. member has made some reference to the whole film industry, which we were chatting about last time. The question is very much before us at the moment as we attempt to find our role as a provincial jurisdiction in the overall development of the Canadian film industry. We have a number of meetings which I've already reported in my response to the hon. member for Cornwall. I simply want to assure the hon. member that I'm looking forward to meeting with the Secre-

tary of State, because we feel that any policy that is developed should be a national one. I recognize, quite quickly, that we have some responsibility, obviously by virtue of the Theatres Act; and, as he will recall, an amendment to the Theatres Act was brought in last session to provide for the possibility of quota if it was considered that was to be the route. Therefore, that possibility is there.

It is perhaps overly simplistic on the part of the hon member to suggest that there is a fairly obvious or straightforward answer to this situation. It's sufficient to say that for the first time, under the auspices of this ministry, we have convened meetings of all the parts of a film industry. It would also be fair to say that there isn't a general consensus when you get to the area of solutions, but I'm very hopeful that as we keep working and thinking about it, with the purpose of making sure that in fact we are working towards the establishment of a viable film industry, then ultimately we will be able to come to some satisfactory arrangements. I'm looking forward to trying on some ideas with the Secretary of State. We completed some meetings with his officials within the last two weeks.

Reference was made to the transfer to the Arts Council. I would point out that, of course, it's a matter of principle to us that the judgements made with respect to those grants are left with the Arts Council. I have no reason to believe its members are allowing any great reserves. The only reserve I know about is the Ontario Heritage Foundation to which we make grants. That's capital grants and, as you know, that becomes necessary through a cash flow arrangement as to when the money would be required following a commitment.

The Arts Council, if we're going to speak upon that point particularly, has been established in order that there would be an outright transfer from government to the council and that a council at arm's length from the political wing would assess applications and would make the judgement calls with respect to those applications. I'm quite satisfied that, as part of that process, there is a very careful scrutiny of the financial situation of the applicant, be it an individual or an organization.

I'd be very surprised if any client dealing with the Arts Council had any particularly large reserve. I'm sure that would influence the Arts Council in the ultimate determination as to the benefit it could have.

I would point out, too—to get to the third question, if I might go back to it for a moment—these grants for regional arts development do amount to some \$403,500. A con-

solidated programme of grants for regional arts development, of course, is planned and we have a breakdown as to how we will see this money operate. Rather, it will become available on a regional basis for the crafts council, arts development, the Canadian Drum Corps, Theatre Ontario and Visual Arts Ontario as part of the ongoing programme in this regard.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of questions to the minister. Firstly, under the heading of cultural development, does this ministry have any policy intentions with respect to the Symons report entitled "To Know Ourselves"? I know most of that report is directed toward educational institutions but there is also a number of sections in it which would certainly—seemingly, anyway—apply to this ministry in terms of cultural development.

Secondly, the minister referred just a minute ago to the Arts Council having a certain autonomy in terms of its decisions. I'm sure he's aware of the fact that for quite a number of performing artists in this province the Arts Council can be a matter of life or death as far as their careers are concerned. I understand this must always be taken with a grain of salt but there is a sense among a number of performing artists in this province that the Arts Council has, shall I say, its favourites or there are some people who get more consideration than others. Whether or not that is true—I guess that is what I'm trying to say—what provision is there for such artists to appeal or to come through another route? Or are they in a sense helpless in this situation?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The hon. member has spoken to me about this in connection with a particular matter which, following our discussion, I have referred back to the Arts Council because I think the points the hon. member made at that time should be reviewed. I don't want to appear overly defensive.

I have a great deal of respect for the Arts Council. I don't mind sharing a very open affection for many of the people who work pretty hard to fulfil the mandate which the Legislature gave that council. I suppose in any organization made up of human beings there may be preferences with respect to areas of interest and I use that not in relation to the Arts Council but referring to the development of any organization. I would feel that anyone who feels they have not been successful with the Arts Council should feel they could re-apply to appeal to that council if there is some new evidence.

I suppose, in any organization where there can be either a yes or a no answer, those who get the no answer are not usually particularly delighted. Indeed, my experience has been that some who get a yes answer in less than the quantitative way they had hoped for don't feel very well done by either. I'd have to rely on what I consider to be the good judgement of the Arts Council as it is advised. Certainly, any evidence which is brought to my attention, as the hon. member did, I refer to the chairman of that council.

[3:30]

On the question with respect to the Symons report, may I briefly go into two things? Mr. Symons, the author of the report, is a member of the Arts Council and I'm sure will be bringing to the attention of the council those sections of the report that will deal particularly with the area of cultural development. The report is about six or seven weeks old. There are two or three sections of the report which have, in fact, been drawn to my attention as worthy to be considered in the development of any policy.

The hon. member will recall the other day, when we were last at these estimates, I mentioned the fact that Paul Shaffer, formerly of York University, was doing some research for us and, certainly in my most recent discussions with him and others, there is no question that the contents of the Symons report have influenced them and have been brought to their attention as well.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Chairman, I have a question of discretion. Is this the proper place to bring in a question on TV-Ontario or does it come under some other vote? I don't see it anywhere.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Vote 2805.

Mr. Sweeney: Thank you.

Mrs. Campbell: I have two questions: One, I note the assistance to book publishing and, of course, I endorse that, but I do wonder why there is a difference of opinion when it comes to periodical subsidies or subsidies for periodicals promoting the Canadian arts.

Second, could I know from the minister, on the grants for open sector education, is this sum available to Ryerson alone, or to whom is it available and what is the situation with reference to Ryerson? That seems to have been fudged under for quite some time now.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I am very excited about what is going on as far as the Ryerson de-

velopment is concerned. I have been meeting with them; in fact, I've had frequent meetings with them. I am tremendously impressed with the public response to their campaigns and to the special concerts.

Certainly, I think we have a very good relationship. The fact that you perhaps don't see the ministry too prominently involved in that respect is a good thing in a way for that type of facility. We are continuing our support as was our commitment and, of course, it's always been predicated on the fact that there would be a fair involvement on the part of the public who are benefiting both from the course development and the general broadcasting.

As for the other grants, we are still continuing our assistance to the Committee on Post-secondary Education as far as Brantford is concerned. Indeed, I'm delighted that the hon. member has raised some questions about this. I see the possibility of some pretty exciting developments in this field because of its emphasis on not going the institutional route and, perhaps, providing services to people where they are. Certainly, just to go back to the Ryerson programme, it's amazing the number of people who are taking advantage of those particular courses.

I do know of the interest of the hon. member in the periodical field, and in particular the meeting that the hon. member had with our officials in connection with a particular periodical. I would hope that we would all benefit from that exchange. In the breakdown of support, we have been more directed to helping people with their manuscripts and, also, in the underwriting of certain borrowing charges as far as the Ontario Development Corp. is concerned in the book publishing area generally. As the hon. member would know from that particular meeting, it isn't that we've been ignoring the other, but it doesn't quite fit into the same pattern and approach as we, in fact, have used in the other area of responsibility.

Mrs. Campbell: Just one quick point, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad that the minister feels that we might all benefit. I must say that in that case they went out of business.

Hon. Mr. Welch: In that case, all that glitters wasn't gold.

Mrs. Campbell: That wasn't glitter. It was another one. Glitter is a different thing.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Oh, I'm sorry.

Vote 2803 agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Vote 2804 is next; multicultural support and citizenship programme.

Mr. Grande: I would like to begin my remarks perhaps by—

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I just wanted to say to the hon. member for St. George, there was one particular figure I didn't share with her. Last year the Ontario Arts Council support was about \$300,000 to some 57 periodicals. I'm sorry, I didn't give her that figure. Thank you.

On vote 2804:

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin my remarks by perhaps going a little back in time to 1972, when the Province of Ontario held its now famous or infamous Heritage Congress, in June, 1972. I would like to talk a little bit about the broad feeling the people of diverse cultural groups in Ontario had that that particular conference was nothing else but a grand gesture of tokenism by the government.

Virtually no one thought that anything constructive was going to evolve from that event. No one believed for one minute that the Conservative government was going to even mildly listen to the needs of the ethnic groups as expressed and articulated for the so-called resource people.

The scepticism was total among the resource people themselves. Today, four years later, we know the real purpose of the Heritage Ontario congress and the formation of the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism, which was set up, in the words of its first chairman, Mr. Checkeris: "This council is charged with the responsibility of advising the government, through the Hon. Margaret Birch, concerning policies and programmes with direct implication for Ontario's cultural communities." I realize that this particular discussion should perhaps be held under the Hon. Margaret Birch, the Provincial Secretary for Social Development. Nonetheless, this particular conference, Heritage Ontario, developed in the minds of the many different cultural groups in Ontario a tremendous number of expectations; expectations that this government finally, after many years, was going to move in a positive way, in a positive direction, to look after and to look seriously at the needs of the different cultural groups in Ontario.

As I was saying, there was a tremendous amount of scepticism there at that particular

conference. We know, though, that the Heritage Ontario congress and the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism represent well planned action by this government, very much in the vein of the Premier's trip to Italy, in order to gain votes from the different cultural groups. I don't apologize for saying that, because really the feeling is there. That's the reason why Heritage Ontario took place, that's the reason why the Premier decided to go to Italy and to take that trip.

I really believe that there has never been any kind of other motivation behind those particular well-planned acts.

I want to quote from a bilingual monthly magazine called *Mosaico*—and by the way, before I do, let me tell you that the people who publish this magazine are certainly no friends of the New Democratic Party. They are friends of the other two parties in this House.

This was said after the general election of 1975 in response to an article which appeared in the *Globe and Mail*. Let me read the whole article, because I think that this particular article captures the tone and the feeling in the different cultural communities across Ontario. It's titled "Davis Trip a Lesson" and I quote:

Soon after Premier Davis's trip to Italy last year, commenting on the CBC's John Zaritsky's filming of the event, Blaik Kirby of the *Globe and Mail* in Toronto wrote: "Clearly the CBC's John Zaritsky formed an opinion of Premier Davis's Italian junket. It was to win votes from the Italians at home and for no other purpose." He went on to comment: "Perhaps worst of all, it is a reflection on the naiveté and credibility of Italian Canadians and that the trip seems very likely to accomplish its vote-getting purpose."

Well, Mr. Kirby, eat your words—you and anybody else who thinks like you. Not one of Davis's candidates was elected by the Italian-Canadian electorate—not here in Toronto, and not in other areas where Italian Canadians are numerous.

We have said it before and would say it again: Generalizations like Kirby's about any group by the news media are most despicable. But lest the lesson be lost, let the Ontario election results be a warning to all politicians and political leaders alike, that over one million people of this country whose origin is Italian will not be taken for granted any longer. If you court our support, then be prepared to acknowledge our existence by recognizing and meeting

our needs, because trips to Italy, appearances at Italian functions prior to elections, token gestures of any kind alone, will not gain you any support.

The reason I quoted that particular article at length is because I really do think it captures the attitude that this government has toward the different cultural groups in this province. The government, as far as I am concerned—and let me tell you at this particular time that I am speaking on behalf of myself at this point in time—is not interested in moving beyond the rhetoric and the gala events. It is not interested and concerned in developing good community-based programmes to encourage the immigrant to integrate within the larger society. It feels no responsibility whatsoever toward the eventual integration of the immigrant.

It doesn't understand the process of integration because its policy is one of assimilation. Its policy is to destroy as fast as possible the cultural differences that make up Canada, and the Province of Ontario in particular. It is not necessary to destroy these unique qualities of cultural groups in order to encourage the members of a group to become good, solid, hard-working Canadians and hence make their contributions in their own terms to our country.

To return for one short moment to the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism, I would suggest to the minister that the council ought to be directly under the responsibility of the Minister of Culture and Recreation. The reason I mention that is because, in taking a look at the minutes beginning in November, 1975, and right up to March, all they are dealing with in their deliberations has to do with the Minister of Culture and Recreation. There is very little else going on.

As a matter of fact, even that particular council, which supposedly was set up to advise the government on policy, in effect sends letters to the different government ministries and says, "Please tell us what we should be discussing in the next month." To me, that is not a council working to develop policies for the government. It is a council working for the benefit of government.

[3:45]

I mentioned earlier that the government does not understand the process of integration, and I say that in all sincerity, I really think you don't understand it. All you are interested in saying to the immigrants, "You've come to Canada. As fast as possible forget about everything that you are and become Canadians. Learn our ways, learn our

traditions, learn our values and then you will be accepted as Canadians.

I suggest to the minister, through you, Mr. Chairman, that does not have to be the process. To point to one specific instance in which this particular ministry does not understand that concept of integration, let us take a look at the different kind of services provided for immigrants. They are solely provided for the immigrants in order to integrate better with Canadian society; in order to allow the immigrants to get some knowledge of the English language; to get some knowledge of the different services provided so that they can become fully participating Canadians in Ontario. I subscribe to that.

However, as soon as these particular organizations or particular groups spring up to take care of a felt need in the community, the government does not provide any funds to them whatsoever. The minister knows that quite well because in September last year a group of us approached him with this particular kind of problem because about 20 community organizations were going to close as of March 31 because they had no funds.

I realize it is just not your responsibility; I realize that. I realize the federal responsibility in this matter but when the federal government does not come through what are you going to do? Are you simply going to say, "Forget it; we will give you a certain amount"; it lasts for a month or two months but that is okay.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Tell the House what we did after that meeting.

Mr. Grande: What did you do? You will have the opportunity to tell the House. I am sure you will.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Why don't you tell them? Don't just leave it there.

Mr. Grande: My concern in this particular area with these programmes is that what the coalition of immigrant and migrant services back in September, 1975, was saying to the minister was, "If you really think these particular services we are providing are necessary to integrate the newest immigrants or the immigrants we have in Metro Toronto and in the Province of Ontario, we suggest to you that what we require, what we need, is some kind of permanent funding."

I also realize that some discussions were going on between your ministry and the federal government regarding this permanent funding. As a matter of fact the coalition suggested a 50-30-20 break—50 per cent from

the federal; 30 per cent from the provincial; and 20 per cent from the municipal government or Metro. What has happened to that permanent funding scheme?

You said why didn't I mention what you had done for them. You said, "Sure, we will do our best to find funds so that they can keep open for another two months." Is that what you said? Or am I misquoting you?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Are they still open?

Mr. Grande: I don't know that, seriously. I am being—

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think they are.

Mr. Grande: If I may continue—you will have your chance to respond; I am sure you will. I am concerned about these people who are very active people within the communities. They are very energetic and willing to do something to help the different communities, the different cultural groups, integrate with Canadian society. By the way, I use that word integration; I do not use assimilation which you tend to use all the time.

In order to do that what happens is that they are penalized all the time because they have to work very hard in order to make sure that they're going to have funds in order to keep open for the next month. And I suggest to the minister that when these people have to be put through that kind of useless wastage of energy, then they cannot be providing the best possible service.

Another thing which intrigues me is that with the minister's understanding of the integration process—and by the way, I will not continue for a long time although there are a lot of things to be said in this area. If the minister is concerned about these services and the integration process, why is it that he specifically says in his policy that the ministry does not fund unilingual community-based programmes? Since when does the immigrant come into the Province of Ontario speaking the English language? I mean, if they did, they would not need that programme. Obviously the process of integration begins unilingually, and there's no doubt about that.

Again, at the same time it seems to me that you have a kind of a fear about funding those particular agencies. Perhaps later on again I hope that you will really tell us what is it that you intend to do in this particular area. With that, given the constraints of time, I stop.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Needless to say I want to respond to this.

I respect the interest, the sensitivity of the member for Oakwood in this area and I appreciate having the benefit of his comments. May I say quietly that I disagree with him almost violently with respect to some of the things that he has tried to suggest are our motivation.

I couldn't exaggerate the feeling I have at the moment with respect to taking exception with the fact that he can't possibly have read a speech of mine on the subject of multiculturalism and stand in this House to say that I used the word "assimilation." You won't find it anywhere in a speech that I've made. I do not believe in assimilation; I believe in integration. My commitment to this concept is, perhaps, well known in the communities where it is of some importance, and I can only say that perhaps once we can correct some of this misinformation we'll find ourselves working very closely together to accomplish some of the things which are obviously very close to the hon. member and about which he feels very keenly.

An examination of these estimates will produce the fact that last year the House voted about \$386,000 to the citizenship field. This year, because of representations made by the new ministry, that's \$1 million. I ask you to find any other programme that's been increased by 250 per cent. That shows something of the commitment we have to some of the very important matters to which the hon. member has made reference.

We have a division now—and we were not as quick to get all these positions filled. We have the executive director now in place coming to us from the Human Rights Commission. We have very dedicated directors in the field of citizenship and multicultural development and a staff who have worked over the years in these fields in a very unselfish and very effective way. My first post in the government was with respect to this, so I perhaps can be excused if I have some feeling with respect to my response in this area.

I want to respect the fact there are other questions to be raised in this and other votes, but when you go through the whole reception service programme; when you go through the language training development programme; when you think in terms of the grants we've provided for organizations and awarded to voluntary agencies and organizations for the purpose of promoting immigrant adjustment and integration—I could recite grants totalling

some quarter of a million dollars; to the Chinese Community Centre of Ontario and the Ethnic Referral Centre and the Black Education Project and the Italian Community Education Project and the Jewish Aid Society and on the list would go—that shows we have put some of the resources of the taxpayers of this province where our commitment is.

When we think of community projects like in Cambridge and in Belleville and in Toronto and in North Bay and in Sarnia and in Niagara Falls with respect to other worthwhile endeavours and what's going into ethno-cultural development, intercultural development, community development and grants for intercultural activities which totalled another \$50,000, I'm a little hard-pressed to understand how anyone could make some of the statements that have been made here. However I think our record in this regard is quite well known.

I couldn't agree with the hon. member more when he says no government can avoid multiculturalism. The government didn't create it; it's a reality of today. You can't understand Ontario or Canada without understanding multiculturalism or cultural pluralism; it's a fact of life. Governments don't create it and they don't dictate people's attitudes with respect to it; they have to respond to it at all levels of government. It's a cultural heritage which makes this particular jurisdiction very special.

As the hon. member has correctly said, I would resent anyone in any party, at any level of government, who thinks he can give token service to this field or in some cheap way deliver a bloc of people in any partisan or political way. You treat them as individuals who have sought opportunities here, or whose parents or grandparents did; they are entitled to equal access to government services and understanding that to which they are entitled, that was the basis of the whole programme when the Department of Provincial Secretary and Citizenship was developed some years ago.

I don't see this as a great area for partisan differences. I invite the hon. member, as I did the day when we met with members of his caucus, to discuss those special programmes. I invite him to share with me the areas where he feels there may be some direction needed. We have added resources. I'm asking the House to vote these additional resources in order that we might respond.

There are a number of points that have been made, and I want to respect the time limitations that are here, but the accountability of the advisory council is of some interest to

me. When I was the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, there wasn't a Ministry of Culture and Recreation at that time. The whole model we followed, in so far as the establishment of advisory councils was concerned, was to have them available to the whole government.

I think it would be unfortunate if we saw the question of multiculturalism as only the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. We have some special responsibilities in the citizenship and multicultural development area because of some special programmes but, as Heritage Ontario has reminded us, it should be a total government response; whatever disadvantage anyone suffers in this jurisdiction, it should be eliminated in the name of equality of access to opportunity. It should be just as important to me, as the Minister of Culture and Recreation, as it would be to the Minister of Community and Social Services or indeed to any ministry.

The idea was to have an advisory council that could be sensitive and able to advise the entire government. This is why the reporting relationship was that with policy minister rather than with any particular ministry in the same way that we had our senior citizens, our handicapped people and multiculturalism as special concerns which the government should be addressing in its total approach. I'm saying that, for different reasons, we have a great commitment to continue this.

This is not an easily understood area. I was at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre today, speaking to some North York teacher administrators during a wonderful series of meetings going on in that educational system. I realize that it takes a great deal of time. You can't legislate. You can't be overly heavy in government directives with respect to it. You've got to live it; you've got to believe in it, you've got to feel it, you've got to realize the reality which multiculturalism really is. And you've got to appreciate that it's more than just folk dancing or folk festivals; it's the wider, broader lifestyle which is ours. It's that and more. And where would we be today if we didn't acknowledge it?

[4:00]

I take it very seriously. I appreciate the counsel and I appreciate the advice. I disagree with the assessment of our motives. I almost violently disagree with some of the value judgements that you have imposed on us with respect to what we are doing, but I do share with you a concern for these particular services.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Chairman, a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member for Scarborough West has a point of order.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say to the House leader, because of some things in these estimates which are important and to which some little time should be turned, I am going to ask the Liberal Party through the House leader—and unhappily because of events today people aren't as generally around—I am going to ask that one hour be taken from the timetable later to be turned exclusively over to Wintario, since that was the intention. We are already intruding into and eroding that hour now anyway. Personally, I would like to give up the hour which was designed for the Premier's (Mr. Davis) estimates, because I have never seen much sense in that. I am hoping that that is where the trade-off will occur. I suspect the Liberal Party would agree.

I would like to speak on this vote for a few minutes, and some other people would like to get into it. I don't want to intrude on the hour for Wintario, which I understand a lot of members want to get in on and which all of us, if we spoke, would erode. So I am putting that to you, Mr. Chairman, as a point of order that I suspect the opposition parties would concur in and that I hope the government would concur in, since, if we do away with the Premier's estimates, it is only the leader of the Liberal Party and the Leader of the Opposition who lose the joy of taking that fellow apart.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I imagine some spokesman from the Liberal Party will want to respond to that. I understand that what would happen then is, we would carry on until 5 o'clock and complete all the votes except Wintario, we would have one hour for Wintario on Thursday afternoon from 3 to 4, and then we would start the Ministry of Education and that additional hour would then be taken off the time allocation for the Premier's estimates.

Mr. Lewis: I would like it like that but the whips may decide on something else.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Mr. Chairman, our party would agree to that, with the exception that we would like it left to the House leader to decide where the other hour is taken from, in order that a decision can be made by the three House leaders.

Mr. Lewis: That's fine.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Does the committee agree? Agreed.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) has volunteered to give up an hour.

Mr. Lewis: The Provincial Secretary for Social Development would doubtless be happy not to bring her estimates to the House at all. It is under negotiation.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I appreciate what the hon. member has said and I will discuss it with my colleagues, the other two House leaders, as to where we find the hour. The idea is that we will finish everything up at 5 o'clock except Wintario and then we will have one hour on Thursday on Wintario.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Chairman, I am sure we concur with the thinking that would allow us to go through until 5 o'clock to carry the votes up to that particular vote on Wintario, which is vote—

Mr. Lewis: Vote 2807.

Mr. Kerrio: Vote 2807, yes; thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, I would address myself to a particular aspect of multiculturalism that I think would bear some investigation in regard to a re-assessment of this particular aspect. If it is part of the mandate of the Ministry of Education to acquaint children with the historical roots of the community and the culture of their origins, I am wondering in this ministry, where we have some \$16 million expended, whether those moneys could not be reconsidered and redirected in the areas of multiculturalism in the particular Ministry of Culture and Recreation. What I am suggesting is that the moneys that are expended under this mandate—some \$11 million at the secondary level and \$5 million at the elementary level—be utilized to provide reception and orientation classes for all children who need them. I am wondering whether, in fact, those moneys couldn't be reconsidered and brought into the Ministry of Culture and Recreation where they would better identify with the multiculturalism aspect of that part of education.

I'll touch on all three of these particular votes because we've handled them in the past as one vote. On item 2, community development for native peoples, I think I would ask all my questions if I may because I think that would expedite getting the votes done with.

I'm somewhat concerned that we're spending some \$574,000 on salaries and wages to government employees in the area of community development for native people. I

wonder if we couldn't somehow bring into focus, with the needs of the people, some expenditure or allotment to developing native peoples in some of these particular aspects of community development and help them in that regard?

On item 3, I wonder if you could translate for me the \$233,900 for translation services? I would like to know who this translation is done for. Is it in any way involved with the translation of government advertising, the origin of which we don't find listed? Is this translation of material from other ministries? Is it a case of the ministry paying for translations when other ministries should be involved? In view of the time restraints, I restrict myself to those particular pertinent questions in this vote and I defer to your answers.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, to move through the questions from the last step, we provide this service. It is an essential service across government and other ministries using this service are charged for it. There is a charge-back arrangement for the translation of government documents and to provide us with a facility to respond to correspondence which comes to us in other languages. There is a charge-back arrangement and the funds are provided here—in other words, we have it for ourselves as a ministry and we provide this service for other ministries as well.

It used to be part of the establishment of Government Services, I think, as part of its central services. We saw the closer relationship with ourselves because of our work in multicultural development, but a condition of its transfer was that we would continue the charge-back arrangement.

I think the hon. member quite correctly raises questions with respect to native development and the employment of native people as part of that employment group. I understand that we have three officers and three clerical staff at the moment who are native people.

I don't disagree at all—I think they would obviously have that much more appreciation in the area of responsibility and I think the point is well made. I think we do everything we can to encourage the development of that type of leadership among the native peoples themselves for that particular work.

The first question, if memory serves me correctly, had something to do with the transfer of moneys from the Ministry of Education. I think when the Education estimates come before this committee—and they follow us—there would be some point in discussing

once again this question of the introduction of young people from other cultural backgrounds to the educational system and the transition arrangements that are there. I think that would be best left as part of the educational responsibility.

I was talking about that this morning actually with the North York administrators. There are some interesting things going on in educational jurisdictions to provide for the transition of students from different cultural backgrounds and with some language problems in order that they can benefit from the established courses. We would maintain some interest in that, in the general area of integration, but would see the specific problems there as being more adequately looked after by the education people than by our own.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak to the question of the Indian community secretariat as the Minister of Culture and Recreation knows. I'm glad to be speaking to him because I like him and I have regard for him. I feel that it's good, therefore, on a subject as important as this to be speaking to a minister who will understand the necessary partisanship but try to discount it and perhaps see some merit in the positions that are being put as well.

I start with two very brief ironies: First, the irony that this estimate should be up at this very moment in time, my colleague from Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) and I having returned from an extensive trip with other New Democrats and members of the media through some of the reserves in northwestern Ontario—Sandy Lake, Whitefish, Whitedog and Grassy Narrows, to be specific.

I also note with irony that there is a certain—how shall I phrase it?—a certain symbolism implicit in the fact that the Indian community secretariat is buried in a vote of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation and has been shifted from ministry to ministry over the last decade, showing, I guess, justifiably or unjustifiably, the way in which we tend to view this rather important little secretariat.

I am reluctant to be combative about the positions I want to take. I know that the minister must and will defend the action of his government, but there are some things I want to say to him and they were added to, in my mind, by the statement that was made before the orders of the day by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier).

If Mr. Bernier persists in the decision that was made today to ask the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth) to launch what will be an

OPP investigation into the Grassy Narrows reserve, I think that a greater single mark of failure of government policy cannot be imagined than proceeding with that kind of investigation. I truly believe that it will destroy what little may be left in the relationships between government and the communities of Grassy Narrows and Whitedog. I want to ask the minister to speak to his colleague the Minister of Natural Resources in the best sense and ask him please to reconsider, because it would be a kind of nightmare finale to a sequence of events over six years for which such governmental behaviour would, I submit to you, be absolutely inexcusable.

I understand the sense that if there is a criminal act or an act of sabotage it must be investigated and ferreted out, but in an instance of this kind there are greater issues at stake and I simply want to try to put it to you. I want to say first that I have doubts about what the Minister of Natural Resources said today—not that he is lying; I just have doubts as to the quality and concept of the statement.

I have heard much from the Ministry of Natural Resources which upon careful scrutiny has turned out to be inadvertently false—like saying that Matachewan was the best-ever asbestos operation in Ontario. I remind you that that was said within two months of closing it down as the worst, and I want to remind members of everything from Elliot Lake to God knows what, the Ministry of Natural Resources has not been the single most reliable ministry in the world.

The Minister of Natural Resources says that the switches were simply turned off at Grassy Narrows. Well, maybe they were. I don't know whether they were. I guess if he says it they must well have been. But that also strikes me, just incidentally, as a peculiar aspect of all of this, because I would have thought that the switches are inside the locked building and you would have to get at them. It just doesn't strike me as logical, knowing the way the reserves work and how everything is under lock and key, to think of it in those terms.

[4:15]

But, let me concede to the Minister of Culture and Recreation for a moment. Suppose there was a deliberate acts of switching off the freezer, rather than an accidental act or rather than something going wrong with the machine? What does it show? It shows that the Indians were engaging in a particular act of social protest or social outrage. Or it could show that the freezer was so alien, and the fish were not being eaten, that they

didn't care anyway. Or it could show that there is such total breakdown in the relationships between the Indian community at Grassy Narrows on the one hand and the provincial and federal authorities on the other, that nobody thought to communicate to each other the problem that emerged on that reserve. So when we walked into it on the weekend, we walked into 5,000 lb of rotting fish in a freezer.

What happened? Did no one go into the freezer in the whole reserve in that period of time? Was it so little used that it was never discovered? Or did people who are perfectly presentable and decent human beings, like the Bill Fobisters, and the Matthew Beavers and the Stephen Fobisters and the Joe Quoquats and all of the leadership of Grassy Narrows, did they go in and see the rotting fish and just walk out and tell nobody about it? Is the entire reserve complicit in an act of sabotage? Or does it say to the minister that the relationships between Grassy Narrows and the government are so bad that nobody thought of telling anybody exactly what was going on?

May I say, Mr. Chairman, through you to the minister, does the minister know that the day before we were there the member of his secretariat who is responsible for the supervision of all of the northwestern part of the province was in Grassy Narrows sorting out a number of band council resolution problems—the chaos left after Jeff Perkins departed? And isn't it almost unimaginable that such an excellent man as Gary Bashera—and he is, I concede that—such an excellent fellow as Gary Bashera spends so many hours on the reserve and comes back, and the things that were in that famous memo were true, that in fact fish has been discarded or buried or whatever, and kind of isn't himself involved in the confidence because there is so much lack of confidence?

Doesn't this episode speak to the incredible breakdown in human relationships which all of this represents? That's why I don't think the OPP should go in. That's why I think the OPP will destroy what little is left. I just don't think that makes any sense at all. It's like saying to the Indian communities at Grassy Narrows, this is a final act of retribution. It's vindictive. It's like saying, we've been wrong for six years and you're going to pay for our errors of judgement and our lack of responsiveness. The government extracts from the community the retribution which the government seeks as compensation for its own unenviable guilt, and that's just no way to behave.

When the Minister of Natural Resources stood in the House today and talked about sabotage, I want to say to the minister, Mr. Chairman, what ran through my mind. Sabotage has many definitions. I suppose you could use the word sabotage to describe turning off a switch in a freezer, with several thousands of pounds of fish thereafter rotting. Could you not also use the word sabotage to describe a sequence of events which destroyed the life of an entire community in 1970, allows it to fall into total social disintegration over the intervening six years and six years after still can't respond to it?

Is that not cultural sabotage? Is that not more important in the scheme of things than turning off a switch in a freezer as an act of social protest or an accident or, indeed, an error in description on the part of the Ministry of Natural Resources?

What is it about our response about what we've done to Whitedog and Grassy Narrows that would allow a respectable minister of the Crown at this point in time to stand up and say, we will seek retribution from the Indians by launching an OPP investigation, rather than saying to himself, as surely he must have for a moment have thought, that the freezer is a symbol of cultural despair? That's what it is. Whether it functions or it doesn't function, I want to tell you I couldn't care less.

The Indians aren't eating the fish in the freezer. They haven't got alternative "Fish for Food" programmes working. They can't get alternative protein. The whole thing is just a miasma of confusion. The problem is not who turned off the freezer, or why the fish were rotting, or all of the incidents that related to that in particular terms, the problem is that the whole situation on Grassy Narrows and Whitedog reserves has gone to hell for six years and no one is able to retrieve a semblance of order.

When I visited, I was really surprised, Mr. Minister, at the way things were still going at Grassy Narrows and Whitedog. I was surprised because I had thought that the freezer programme was working; I want to tell you that.

On April 29 in this House, the acting Minister of Health, the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson), in response to a question from the Liberal leader implied to the Legislature very strongly, she said—I have it in front of me: "They have been supplied with alternative fish sources and other protein foods in order to help them to overcome the possibility of eating fish from those rivers."

That was three weeks after Rene Brunelle, the Chairman of Cabinet, had written to the reserves to indicate that the alternative protein supply situation was already in trouble. I was astounded to walk into those reserves and find that nobody was eating the fish from the freezer and the alternative "Fish for Food" programme had collapsed. At no time in this Legislature were we told about it. At no time.

Do you recall with what enthusiasm Allan Grossman rose in his place to talk about the introduction of the freezers? Nobody said anything to this Legislature about the whole programme collapsing. No one. How do you treat a situation like that? Why don't you take the Legislature into your confidence? And what I guess I'm asking the Minister of Culture and Recreation is—and I'm not asking it very effectively—can't the cabinet, can't the Minister of Natural Resources be persuaded to look at the episode of the freezer with the question mark, why did it happen? What's going on out there? What is this tragedy of Grassy Narrows and Whitedog? That's what I'm begging you to look at.

I think it's true that after commercial fishing ended in the spring of 1970, life has been downhill every step of the way for those reserves and the whole situation is an unutterable shambles. There was a lovely elderly Indian fellow who walked up a kind of rise with us in Grassy Narrows. His name was Stephen Loon. He said: "I worked as a guide for 23 years up until the spring of 1970, and I haven't had a day's work since." He was very bitter about it and it simply speaks the volumes of truth about the Grassy Narrows Reserve.

Isn't it also true, that the competing bureaucracies, provincially and federally, have forever frustrated themselves and each other over that intervening six-year period? Isn't it true that there are too many ministries involved, too many changing bureaucrats, too many areas of competing jurisdiction?

The minister from Cochrane North (Mr. Brunelle) mentioned today in question period that there was a meeting on May 20, the minutes of which stated such and such. May I say, Mr. Chairman, to the House that the meeting on May 20 was the first meeting in six years of a whole range of civil servants to deal with the problems of Grassy Narrows and Whitedog.

Do you know, there were over 30 civil servants there representing 12 federal and provincial ministries? And do you know the minutes of that meeting read like a take-off on the absurdity of bureaucratic complexity?

You could fashion a positive theatrical scenario around those minutes, and the constant competing jurisdiction that was involved.

Isn't it also fair to say that the fight between the province and the federal government has been used as a device to avoid responsibility over the period of the whole six years? Isn't it kind of unhappy for the hon. Chairman of Cabinet to have to stand today again and say that it's a federal responsibility to provide jobs?

We closed the English-Wabigoon system. We took a hammer to the head of the bows on the system and we smashed them. Then we say it's the responsibility of the federal government to provide long-term jobs. That's not an intelligent distribution of federal-provincial relationships; that's a use of those relationships to avoid moral and social responsibilities. If we ended life on those reserves as it was known, then we have an obligation to compensate for it, to do something about it. Six years have passed and very, very little has been done. I don't understand that. I'm asking again through the Chair that something be changed.

My colleague from Bellwoods has pointed to me and to members of the media and others that the Ministry of the Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs wasn't even at the meeting of May 20, so even if the federal government wanted to enter into some long-term agreement, it wouldn't be able to because the appropriate ministry wasn't there to do it. All of this talk about motels and service stations is just so much falderal. It's never happened; it will never happen. It's a gasp into the wind again in the hope that somehow the wind itself will silence your adversaries. It doesn't work any more, because there is too much militance developing and too much anxiety developing, of which the crazy freezer business is just a symbol.

What is the government going to do if, I say through the Chair to the Minister of Culture and Recreation and the Chairman of Cabinet, if Isaac Mandamin and the Whitedog reserve close the road on June 10? What are you going to do about the tourist operators and about sports fishing? How are you going to handle all that? How come when they asked you on Oct. 31 last to give them an answer to that you still haven't responded? That's just palpable bad faith. You responded on April 8 and said that it's going to take a very long time to work through the legal complexities and said you were not in a position to give an answer yet. Some response. What's going on?

You're going to have a real social cause célèbre on your hands which in time could make Anicinabi seem relatively modest. What are you going to do about it? What are you going to do about the whole alternative "Fish-for-Food" programme. Suppose it was all conceived in good faith—let us assume that—what happens now? The fish in the freezer for whatever reason will not be eaten. The fish in the freezer for whatever reason is believed by the Indians to have a mercury content which even though low is too high for them to ingest. There are no lakes identifiable within reach where they can fish for alternative sources where the fish don't have mercury content. For their shore lunches they still eat mercury-contaminated fish.

If I were to ask the Minister of Culture and Recreation what he thinks the tourist operators pack for the Indian peoples as an alternative to fish for lunch, could he tell me? Do you know? Suppose I told you that what they pack for the Indians for lunch for a seasoned guide is a can of Spam? Would you consider that as a reasonable response to having sort of destroyed the normal cultural, social eating habits of the people?

Matthew Beaver sits in the meeting and says, "You go out there and you fry the fish for the tourists and it looks so good and it's so delicious." And you can practically taste the fish, as he is talking about it. How do we work out an alternative to a protein situation which is verging on disaster? Look at what happened last week, to which very little credit has been given because very little has been said about it. For the first time in what I can remember the Indians on Grassy Narrows started to get letters saying that they may in fact have Minamata disease. I've never heard it conceded by the Province of Ontario before, or by anybody. But here is a letter from Dr. Prichard at the Sick Children's Hospital saying exactly that.

[4:30]

I say to the minister and to the Chairman of the Cabinet that this letter speaks volumes. If you had a patient, Mr. Minister, whom you had examined and he might have a crippling and ultimately fatal disease, would you send him a form letter with his name typed in? It's very hard to believe how all of this happened up there. Here is the original letter to Steve Fobister—and the name is typed in.

Dear Mr. Fobister:

We found some minor neurological signs when we examined you recently. These can be caused by mercury poisoning, as well as

from a number of other reasons. They are not serious, and you should not worry about them but please do not eat any of the fish from your local contaminated waters. I will be glad to send a more detailed report to you or your family physician if you wish.

This was dated May 24 last. You know this Dr. Prichard, who has done the study for the provincial government and visited Japan and did the study on Grassy Narrows and has submitted it to the federal government—and as an aside, I would like to know where both those studies are—this Dr. Prichard needs a quiet lesson in common, human decency.

You don't send form letters to patients, or prospective patients telling them they may have a serious disease.

But doesn't that speak to the whole crazy business of the northwest reserves? Doesn't that speak, Mr. Chairman, to the breakdown in relationships which we have tried to describe? Doesn't that speak, if I may say, to the Chairman of Cabinet, to the sequence of promises unfulfilled, from the wild rice crops through to the daycare centres, through to the expansion of the sawmills, through to all of the possibilities which would have given a genuine and viable economic base to those Indian people?

Isn't it the ultimate irony that we destroy their culture in 1970, and then in 1974 and 1975 we flood their wild rice crop so badly that they can't even get a penny in compensation? And that a Crown corporation and the Lake of the Woods control board are both involved in the flooding?

Don't you see it as a kind of conspiracy focused on the Indian people of Grassy Narrows and Whitedog, from which there appears to be absolutely no escape? Nothing ever gets resolved; nothing ever gets done. And you go back to the reserves and you see the same despair and the same demoralization and the same sense of frustration—although if the leadership is particularly good, as it is in Whitedog, there is a kind of determined confrontation with government to get it sorted out.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to end by putting to the minister, again briefly, the proposition I put to him at question period. I don't know what the answers are to some of these problems. I think I understand some of it. And I wish at times like this I was out of politics. I would love to offer you a consultancy. I would like an opportunity to go up there and do it, except that I suppose a civil

servant can't do it. Jeff Perkins tried to do it, and look at the shambles that apparently occurred.

So, maybe there is another alternative. If there was one vivid reality about the whole experience of this last weekend, it is the absence of a focus. It's the absence of a channel. It's the absence of trust between the bands and some representative of government; some one or some people with authority who get things done in a deliberate and progressive fashion.

I think we should, therefore, take some members of this Legislature and do it. We have tried to do it with members of the cabinet. It hasn't worked. Those things often don't. We tried to do it with a senior co-ordinator, a civil servant named Jeff Perkins. It didn't work.

I can't appeal to the Premier to go in and usurp the authority of the Minister of Natural Resources, because that is too much an explicit attack on the minister; politically, I understand that can't be done. So, even though I would like to invite the Premier to go up to Whitedog and Grassy Narrows and see for himself, I know that that probably won't happen.

We are trying to suggest, Mr. Chairman, an alternative which would work. The alternative is to take one of the Tory back-benchers, who has the regard and respect from the members of the House, regardless of political association—or a member of each of the three parties who have that regard and respect, and who are seen as first-rate members regardless of ideology, and give them terms of reference for six or eight months. Say to them as follows:

"We want you to go intermittently back and forth from Grassy Narrows and Whitedog, in addition to your normal duties. We want you to make sure that money gets to the daycare centre. We want you to make sure there is no more flooding of wild rice and that the dam is repaired.

We want you to make sure that the sawmill operation is expanded. We want you to make sure that everything from paddles to caskets are considered in the process of job alternatives. We want you to try to be able to have your traplines and the animals which are caught service the fur plant in Whitefish Bay rather than having to go to North Bay to be sold so that there is some integration of associated Indian economies.

We want you to develop a long-term economic plan in conjunction with the federal government. We want you to explore the

kinds of things which the Indian guides will eat at lunch when they are guiding—if the waterways are to remain open, although I don't think they should—and we want you as well to look at an alternative food programme generally which we can phase in.

We are giving you political authority and we are saying to you you can tell the civil servants what they have to do. We want to have it delivered. We know the Chairman of Cabinet (Mr. Brunelle) can't do it because he is responsible for all Indian peoples in a co-ordinated sense, and can't just handle Grassy Narrows and Whitedog."

We are finally going to put some people on the front line who, in six or eight months, can restore to a legitimate relationship the ruptures and futilities of the last six years. We have no right, Mr. Minister, through the Chair, to be doing what we are now doing; we just have no right at all. There is something so terribly nutty—it is surreal—the Minister of Natural Resources to stand in his place, his ministry, and say we are going to launch a police investigation when we have just clobbered the life-blood out of Grassy Narrows. Six years later we are investigating them for a quite natural if inadvertent human response which speaks far more about our incapacity to deal with a civilized and decent people whom we have savaged rather than our capacity to be vindictive and retributive about it.

I am asking you, as an excellent minister, to speak to the Premier and to speak to your cabinet colleagues and to call them off and to get the thing onstream.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I think I would do a great disservice to the committee now if I spent too much time apparently in a defensive way. I think there is general agreement that the situation is one which has to be addressed. I would like to say in the interest of those who have had the responsibility—one which has been approached from that type of dedication—that I want to make one or two observations.

I know that when you have a particular problem—and I speak in terms of another responsibility I had when I was the Attorney General; in particular the park situation in Kenora—in responding to that one has to look beyond the immediate problem and how cautious you have to be as you attempt to respond to that particular concern.

I draw attention to that very briefly only because it became obvious to me and to my colleagues at that time that the question of a focus here at Queen's Park was a very real

need. After that particular situation appeared to be in hand it was important to follow up quickly with the co-ordinating development here so that there would be some place or some focus as the Leader of the Opposition mentions, to which the native peoples could look to respond to their overall concerns.

It has been in the spirit and since that particular time—and I speak from that personal experience—that we have been developing it with senior staff. Then, of course, there was the very significant appointment of my colleague, the Chairman of Cabinet, who has a particular interest in it and I think is ideally suited to give leadership to this role of co-ordination.

As the Leader of the Opposition and the members of the committee will know, he and a committee of senior civil servants—three or four deputy leaders and other senior personnel from other ministries—meet on a regular basis to address themselves to the responsibilities which have been assigned to my colleague by cabinet on this overall responsibility for native peoples.

It would seem, and I am sure my colleague would agree, that maybe this would be the tone of our exchange. I appreciate the sincerity of the comments and I appreciate the feeling with which the comments were shared with all of us in committee today.

I know the hon. Leader of the Opposition would be fair to say that, the problems having just developed, the situation is one that avoids simplistic solutions. He has been fair enough to point out the fact that there are so many other factors to be taken into consideration. I'm sure the Chairman of Cabinet, in view of the new evidence that has been developed in the last few days, would want at a very early opportunity to review the statements that have been made to see whether or not there isn't some other approach that could be made for this particular problem. As we do that, we think in terms of the overall responsibilities of co-ordination. It's the duty even of civil servants to figure out all the jurisdictional matters.

Perhaps with that exchange and with the assurance that my colleague and the members of this committee will address themselves to that and my assurance to the Leader of the Opposition that I will discuss his proposition or his proposal with the Premier tomorrow on his return, that would be the only contribution that I would make now. I wouldn't want its brevity in any way to be interpreted as a lack of interest and a lack

of concern nor to be interpreted in any way but in a positive way to be some indication of how anxious I'm sure we all are to solve this and indeed to provide an opportunity for the resolutions of all problems.

Mr. Chairman: Let me remind members of the committee that we agreed to complete all of the votes in this estimate by 5 o'clock with the exception of Wintario. I believe that the remaining time should go to a spokesman for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Samis: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I don't think we necessarily agreed to that. We agreed to set aside another hour beyond 5 o'clock. It's quite likely that there will be several votes here that may have to be included in that remaining hour.

Mrs. Campbell: Oh, no.

Mr. Chairman: All right.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I just have a question under item 1 of vote 2804. As I understand it, the minister has had a task force set up on community organization development and delivery. Would he indicate to me just where that task force stands now and when it's expected that its report will be tabled? I understand this crosses a lot of different ministries, but it comes under your ministry actually.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I must admit I need some help. Are you talking in terms of some specific work that's being done as far as newcomer integration is concerned or multicultural development?

Mr. R. S. Smith: No, support for community organizations in the first item, in regard to the task force that has been set up.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It may be that you're having some reference to a study that was commissioned some time ago on the whole question of volunteerism.

Mr. R. S. Smith: That's right.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I have had a meeting with those who were engaged in that activity, some two or three months ago. I guess it's at least that time. I think that within the last week they've had a further meeting at Couchiching. They were doing somewhat of a training session at that time. There are a series of recommendations that we will be considering with respect to the whole question with relationship between government and the volunteer sector and the types of response. In answer to your question, yes,

there has been an ongoing study for some months. I have met with those who are involved to be introduced to some of the recommendations at this stage. I have some arrangements made with those who are involved in that study that they will be coming to see me following the Couchiching meetings which were completed, I think, just a week ago.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Is their study almost coming to an end, and should we expect the report within perhaps the next few months?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes, that's right. I do also agree with what the hon. member has said that the implications of this report will cross into many other ministries, Health and Community and Social Services, when you think in terms of this resource called volunteerism and how it might be organized, if that's a proper word to use. To answer your question simply, the answer is yes.

[4:45]

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Bellwoods. Will you share the remaining time with the hon. member for St. George?

Mr. McClellan: Yes, I would be happy to Mr. Chairman.

Mrs. Campbell: On what basis? 100 to nothing.

Mr. Chairman: No, we have 14 minutes before the committee rises and reports. In the interest of fairness, I think you shouldn't go beyond half of that time.

Mr. McClellan: I wanted to follow up on the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition. I'll shorten considerably the range of things that I had hoped to be able to cover and focus on one particular piece of, I suppose, government policy. It's the same issue that impelled me to resign from the Indian development branch seven years ago. That is the position that was restated here in this House again this afternoon that Indians, in essence, native people on reserves, are a federal responsibility first, foremost and, I suppose, for ever and ever. It's simply unacceptable.

That policy is at the back of the catastrophe that has now come to light at Grassy Narrows and Whitedog. If that policy is allowed to continue as the basis of government response to native peoples for even another month, we may lose the opportunity to be able to deal forever with the situation at Grassy and Whitedog. Let's not forget what we're talking about. We're talking about 1,000 people who are eating poisoned fish. We're talking about

1,000 people who are now beginning to get reports from doctors of neurological damage as a result of prolonged mercury poisoning. That is now starting to become apparent.

The amount of time we have to deal with the problem is rapidly running out. We have now wasted six years. The crux of the matter remains the long-term, economic development in the area to provide an alternative to the way of life that was destroyed in the English River system by the Reed Paper Co. and by this government's neglect.

All of the food freezers in the world are so much irrelevance if we fail to deal with the long-term economic development problem. I had no assurance from the minister other than that this government was prepared to do other than follow along, to drag its heels and to wait for the federal government. It is unclear what this policy really means, whether you intend to wait for federal initiatives or whether you refuse to participate in federal initiatives. That remains ambiguous. At any rate the letter of April 8 which the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Brunelle) sent to Chief Isaac Mandamin at Whitedog is in its entirety a description of—

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Why don't you read it into the record?

Mr. Lewis: The letter is the silliest travesty you have ever done.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. McClellan: This letter is as clear a piece of evidence of paralysis within an area of government policy as anything that I've ever seen. With respect to long-term economic development, the minister simply says: "It should be noted that the primary responsibility for economic development on reserves is the responsibility of the federal government." That is precisely what I'm telling you is no longer good enough.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: You ask the Indians themselves and you will find out what their answer is.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, come on! Did you read the minutes of May 20?

Mr. McClellan: Could I just continue my remarks, Mr. Chairman, without these kinds of interjections?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: All the remote Indian reserves.

Mr. McClellan: The meeting on May 20 had a number of very clear requests for provincial assistance in building up an alternative economy. It is very unequivocal.

The second request was for a joint federal-provincial northlands agreement, similar to the Manitoba programme. A. Herridge who is Assistant Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, I understand, stated that the second item is the crux of the matter—development of a long-term agreement between the federal and provincial governments. Mr. Graham of DREE pointed out the lack of a TEIGA representative as indicating a lack of provincial commitment. I gather a TEIGA representative had been invited to the meeting. We understand the refusal of TEIGA and the minister in charge of TEIGA to engage in any further federal-provincial agreements. The consequence of that policy is quite simply to sabotage any fruitful outcome of a meeting such as the one that took place on May 20.

Native people are still citizens of this province. The Ontario government has direct complicity in what happened at Grassy Narrows and Whitedog. As long as you grab at the cop-out of federal jurisdiction, you are dooming to failure any attempt to deal productively with this disaster. One gets the sorry sense that even the good response from the Minister of Culture and Recreation has been somewhat nullified in our minds by the continued stonewalling from the minister in charge of native affairs. If the feds aren't willing to move, you have at least some structures that make it possible for you to proceed.

It isn't an overwhelming task that is faced. What is required is a clear commitment. What is required is that there be commitment at the highest level within this government to deal with the things so that we don't have further documents like this letter of the member for Cochrane North to the chief of Whitedog, which goes on to deal with some 16 items, not a single one of which has been satisfactorily resolved.

I don't attribute that to a failure of the minister in charge, the member for Cochrane North. Let me make that very clear. I am not blaming him for any personal failure. What I am saying is that this letter is evidence of a complete failure of government policy, a complete paralysis on the part of the entire government. It is obvious that the minister is not able to make his co-ordinating role work and that he has a delay of six months, during which time presumably he tries to secure co-operation and agreement

from the various other ministries with a total lack of success, with a complete failure to get them to move.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. I wonder if the Chair could interrupt for a moment? It was my understanding that there was an undertaking between the hon. member and the hon. member for St. George to share the remaining time. I wonder if the hon. member has finished?

Mr. McClellan: I'll conclude immediately, Mr. Chairman. I just want to stress again that it is a fundamental failure of government policy that is at the root of this catastrophe. If that policy is not changed and if Ontario is not willing to say to the native people of this province: "We are responsible for improving your lot regardless of jurisdictional hassles; we can negotiate and we can form a partnership to try to move ahead;" if you're not even willing to move in that direction and you continue to take the jurisdictional cop-out, then the consequence quite simply is that people are going to die.

Mrs. Campbell: If I may follow along on some of the remarks which have been made by the official opposition, my remarks cannot be quite so dramatic because the cause is not seen to be so dramatic. But I would like to address a few remarks first to the problems of the native peoples in the large communities. I was present when the Chairman of Cabinet met with the native women recently and at a banquet following that discussed their problems and their deep concerns.

One of the things that follows on from what was said by the opposition about the treatment of native people on their own reservations is quite consistent with what happens when many of them feel driven to come into a big city, and they do not have the kinds of assistance that are needed.

The one person who spoke out at the luncheon, wanting to talk to the Chairman of Cabinet, was a woman who is trying to deal with the problem of the young native girls, in this case—although she's dealing with native boys, too. But there are the young native girls who come into the city and face grave problems and can find no help because, again, of this kind of "the federal government must do it before we do it," or "the municipality must do it before we do it."

You have in this ministry a commitment to these people, who have in many cases been forced from their reservations into a

city which is alien to them. I have raised in the past their problems in the courts, and the dreadful situation where a middleclass social worker can get up and testify that a little native boy doesn't articulate. This sort of treatment of native peoples in our city has got to be stopped, and you, surely, must draw to yourself the resources to do it. We must not continue to go scampering to the executioner, in the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor), or to the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller), or somebody else.

You are trying to make these people fit into slots that suit the bureaucratic processes of government, and they don't fit into them. I beseech you to take some concern for their problems in the large communities.

And what can I say when I look at translations services? I recognize the need for those services, but why is it that we have to fight day and night just to get interpreting services for the multicultural groups in our community? Surely their problems should be your problems? But we face the threat every so often. You say: "We can't give any funding to the Portuguese community centres, because we haven't that kind of funding." There has to be a commitment, not just a mental acceptance of multiculturalism. It has to be something in depth, and it has to have the same thrust for the multicultural groups in our community as for the native peoples—for all people who have need.

This is something that I believe this government has failed to see. Not because you're evil people, not because you'd like to do something if you knew what to do, but you go about it in a bureaucratic fashion, trying to fit people into slots, trying to accommodate them to programmes, rather than working with them to understand what their needs really are. And that has to be a grass roots commitment.

We have many people who've made it in this country who often interpret what the community needs, having in some cases forgotten what that community needs because they no longer need it. And I would beseech you to do something to bring into focus the very real needs of these people, all of them, as they appear in the large city.

Mr. Chairman, I can't go beyond this point. I very much feel that if we are to have agreements about times, we're going to have to have commitment as to the length of each individual's speech, because there's obviously no way to honour a commitment

when one party refuses to honour the time restraints.

[5:00]

Mr. Ferrier: The Liberal Party is also at fault.

Mr. B. Newman: Share equally, fellows.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall this vote carry?

Vote 2804 agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: It was the Chair's understanding, on the point of order raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) and concurred in by the hon. member for Nipissing (Mr. R. S. Smith), that this would carry all of the votes of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation with the exception of the Wintario section of the estimates; that that hour would be debated at a later date and that in order to compensate for that hour there would be one hour taken from one of the other estimates to be debated, the estimate to be concurred in by the three House leaders. Is this agreed?

Mr. Samis: I understand, Mr. Chairman, that the final resolution of this suggestion—and I emphasize that word—made by the Leader of the Opposition is to be by the three House leaders.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I think as I recall it, his suggestion was that the votes be passed with the exception of Wintario. I distinctly remember that.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I am in somewhat of a difficult position. After all, these are my estimates and I don't want to be trying to suggest how they be considered. If I could as House leader put on that hat for just a moment, I would draw your attention to the fact that, although vote 2807 is the Wintario grant it would be very difficult to go through the Wintario grant without some implications with respect to the programme and the criteria. If, in fact, the idea was to add an hour to these particular estimates and you wanted to have them confined to vote 2807, that vote would provide an opportunity to talk about some of the other programmes because you would be interested in the criteria.

It is entirely up to the committee. If you carry votes 2805 and 2806, that would mean when we reconvene as a committee on Thursday we would have an hour on vote 2807, which is what was my understanding from the Leader of the Opposition. Here once

again I remind you I am in your hands, because this was the arrangement that we made with respect to the apportionment of the time that remains in committee of supply.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Mr. Chairman, I believe you are correct in what the understanding was except that there was to be some time left for votes 2806 and 2807. We have now come to the point where we have no time at all for votes 2806 and 2807, including such important matters as ETV.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Votes 2805 and 2806.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Yes, votes 2805 and 2806 not 2807; sorry, vote 2807 is Wintario. If we could have the House leaders meet in regard to providing some time for votes 2805 and 2806, perhaps a half an hour so that we can talk about ETV and some of the important things that are in there a bit, and then have an hour for vote 2807, I think that would be much more agreeable to most members.

Mr. B. Newman: A good idea.

Mr. Samis: Could I just make one comment, Mr. Chairman? When the suggestion was made, I don't know if the assumption was that that particular item would last, I think, for 65 minutes' discussion to the detriment of votes 2805 and 2806, as just pointed out by my colleague from Nipissing. I would suggest to the government House leader that some compromise be worked out to allow limited discussion of votes 2805 and 2806, even if we have to limit it to 20, or 25, or 30 minutes as the ultimate compromise and fix a limit for Wintario.

As critic, I would be prepared to limit Wintario to 30 minutes if that allows votes 2805 and 2806 to be discussed as well. I think we, as the opposition, should have the opportunity, even if it is very limited, to discuss all three items.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The government House leader would want some direction. After all, it is very easy and, as far as I am concerned, you can take the time that is required. It is other people who pay for it, the critics for other ministries, who will then feel that they have been deprived of some time.

We have now carried the votes to 2804, and we have 2805, 2806, and 2807 to discuss. I assume that I am now talking to my colleagues, the other House leaders, as to how you would accommodate that in the

hour. All we did agree on at that time was that we find another hour from some of the other estimates. That would mean that three votes would have to be considered in that hour, unless there is some agreement that you are going to take away time from the other ministries. Keep in mind we have Education, Health and Community and Social Services yet to be considered in this committee.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Could we not leave it that three votes have not been passed at the present time and an agreement will be reached between the three House leaders?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes, but then are we assuming that we are at 2804 and that there are three votes yet to be carried and that you will have an hour for the three of them on Thursday afternoon?

Mr. R. S. Smith: We'll leave that to the agreement of the House leaders.

Hon. Mr. Welch: There is no question that it is going to be Thursday afternoon?

Mr. R. S. Smith: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Welch: But where the hour comes from will be for the—

Mr. R. S. Smith: Or the hour and a half they might want.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Don't put me in that position. I couldn't care less if it's five more hours, but the thing is, is there agreement between the two opposition parties that they want an hour or an hour and a half? What are we going to talk about?

Mr. Samis: Sixty minutes; obviously 90 would be delightful, but 60 minutes for the three votes.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Agreed.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I would like to observe that since Wintario is a new programme and people are following it with great interest the maximum amount of that hour should be given to Wintario. I would hope that would be part of the understanding.

As to the other things, we have had other opportunities to discuss them and we will have other opportunities in the future for ongoing programmes but a new programme deserves special attention.

Hon. Mr. Welch: On that note, I would move the committee rise and report.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed; Mr. Deputy Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of supply begs to report it has come to certain resolutions and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR:

ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS CODE AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. B. Newman moved second reading of Bill 23, An Act to amend the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, if I'm not mistaken this is the third time I have introduced this bill in this Legislature, hoping we could get some type of action from the government and that it would hesitate delaying any longer and would implement the suggestions contained within Bill 23.

The purpose of the bill is very simple. I intentionally made the bill extremely simple so that we wouldn't have any other elements of discussion but the one which is the elimination of discrimination on the basis of or because of a physical handicap where that physical handicap does not prevent the individual from performing the responsibilities he has undertaken.

I could have come along and broadened the bill quite substantially but because I have made it so simple I thought it was necessary to see that there was a fairly concise definition of a physical handicap. The definition of a physical handicap is contained in section 9.

Physical handicap means a physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement which is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and includes epilepsy and any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment or physical reliance on a seeing-eye dog, wheel chair or other remedial appliance or device.

The reason for my introducing this bill for the third time is the discrimination we find in our society today against those who can least afford to be discriminated against—those who have a serious handicap because employment opportunities are extremely lim-

ited and in many instances not available at all to them.

The legislation is taken directly from legislation introduced into the Nova Scotia House; it was introduced on Nov. 27, 1974. It was Bill 134 and it was an amendment to the Human Rights Act of that province. Nova Scotia was farsighted enough to attempt to resolve the problem back in 1974, whereas the Province of Ontario approximately two years later is still simply having a committee that is going about the province to find ways of amending the Human Rights Code.

I regret very much, Mr. Speaker, that the government did not see fit to see that the members of the Human Rights Commission who are going about the province seeking amendments or suggestions from the public as to the ways of improving the Human Rights Code are not here present today to hear the debates. I think it would have done them good to have been in the House during the time of the debates and got the input from the various members who will be partaking in the debate.

As I mentioned earlier, the legislation that I proposed was very simple. I could have included a bill introduced by the member for York West (Mr. Leluk) who asks to prevent discrimination because of marital status with respect to occupancy of any commercial unit or any housing accommodation. I could have included the amendment of the Human Rights Code by the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Bounsall) who asks to prevent discrimination in employment on the basis of physical disability, criminal record, political affiliation, or sexual orientation. I could also have included the bill introduced by the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) who introduced a bill, An Act to establish an Ontario Bill of Rights. I wanted the bill to be as simple as possible hoping that the government would accept the principle of the bill implemented and at least this type of discrimination would have been ended once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, for the fact that I've introduced the bill I think I have to give credit to an individual in my community, a young individual with a handicap by the name of Lyle Kersey, who suggested to me that the Province of Nova Scotia had implemented legislation. When I asked him for a copy he provided me with it, and the result of our discussion is the bill that is before us today.

When the bill was first introduced in the House at a previous Parliament, the borough of Etobicoke took notice of the bill. In a meeting of its council on April 28, 1975,

the borough adopted the bill as is, and suggested to the hon. Premier (Mr. Davis), to the hon. Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) and all members of the Legislature that they support the principle of the bill.

In their presentation and comments concerning this legislation the following is contained. I'm quoting from their presentation and their comments concerning this bill.

As the explanatory note on the copy of the bill attached states, the purpose of the bill is to prevent discrimination on the basis of physical handicap.

All the evidence I have read and that which I am personally aware of shows that statistically the disabled is either underemployed or unemployed compared to the able-bodied. This is not merely that they are physically unable to work, but that they are, for the most part, not given equal opportunity to get employment to work.

I recently learned that an employer-union contract contained in a clause of no discrimination which reads in part: "The employer agrees there shall be no discrimination with respect to any employee in the matter of hiring, wage rates, training, upgrading, promotion, transfer, layoff, recall, discipline or otherwise by means of age, race, creed, colour, national origin, political or religious affiliation, sex, marital status and physical handicap.

[5:15]

In the State of New York, an Act to amend the executive law in relation to discrimination because of disability became effective Sept. 1, 1974, and in that Act each section commences to read: "It shall be unlawful, discriminatory practice to, because of race, creed, colour, national origin, sex or disability of any person directly or indirectly to . . ." It thus seems to me that Ontario should adopt a similar amendment so that the disabled can be privileged to participate as equals with others in our society and that this privilege be incorporated as a human right in the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Your committee recommends that the foregoing report be adopted and that the Hon. William G. Davis, Premier of Ontario, the Hon. Margaret Birch, Provincial Secretary for Social Development and myself be so advised.

This was concurred in by the board of control on April 28, 1975. So you can see, Mr. Speaker, the borough of York was very much interested in the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, on April 16, 1974, in the question period, I had asked the Minister of Labour of the day if he was recommending to his cabinet colleagues that they adopt the principle that a certain percentage of jobs be set aside in the civil service for those who have a physical handicap. Nothing has been done as a result of that suggestion to today.

On April 19, 1974, in the questions before the orders of the day, in a discussion of hiring procedures of liquor store employees, I had asked of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations if he was prepared to increase the opportunity for the handicapped in obtaining employment by hiring handicapped women as cashiers in liquor stores. The minister of the day thought it was a very good role for an individual so affected and was going to consider it. I don't know, Mr. Speaker, if anything actually has been done, if that is a policy on the part of the government to at least put aside certain types of employment for those who have a real disadvantage.

Not only are the physically handicapped disadvantaged when it comes to job opportunities; they're even disadvantaged when it comes to exercising their democratic right. I know, Mr. Speaker, that the comments I'm making at this point have nothing to do with the principle of the bill, but I'm only illustrating another way in which they're being disadvantaged in our society today; they're discriminated against because of their handicap when it comes to exercising their franchise.

On Nov. 8, 1974, I suggested to the Minister of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs that he set up a system of voting where the individual could vote by means of a drive-in operation. He could exercise his franchise the same way as one would go to a drive-in to purchase commodities. He could vote in the same fashion; the handicapped would actually never have to leave the car, he would be given the ballot, could mark the ballot in the car and the ballot box would be put next to him and he would insert the ballot or have the ballot inserted in the ballot box by the returning officer.

Mr. Speaker, one of the questions asked of the then Minister of Labour on May 16, 1975, by myself was:

Is the minister aware that the council of the borough of Etobicoke has endorsed private member's bill [that day it was Bill 19] An Act to amend the Ontario Human Rights Code? The purpose of this bill is to eliminate discrimination as a result

of a physical handicap. Is the minister prepared at this time to accept that as legislation?

Now the minister in replying made a statement that sort of shocked me that the government would react in this fashion. His last sentence is:

If we start putting things such as the handicapped in it, I don't think it'll do much for the handicapped and I think it will detract from the basic principles of the code.

Imagine, in 1975, a minister of the Crown coming along and openly recommending discrimination because of a physical handicap, by refusing to come along and accept a basic right—the right to get employment—or thinking that individual should be deprived of that because, in his estimation, it would be cluttering up a code. The Province of Nova Scotia didn't hesitate for one minute to amend its Human Rights Code by inserting it.

Mr. Haggerty: There's Liberal government in Nova Scotia.

Mr. B. Newman: Following up on exactly that same thing, the same minister, four days after he made those comments to me, in replying to another member of the House on the same topic mentioned, concerning a policy on the part of the government, "It is only really at formative stages. We are investigating what they have done in other places as well as our own ideas of what might be done to ensure that a reasonable number of jobs in industry and business will go to handicapped people." Members can see he started to waffle at that stage.

On Nov. 3 this past year I asked the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) if she was prepared to amend the Human Rights Code by accepting exactly what I have here and the principle contained in the bill under discussion. She simply mentioned that the Human Rights Code of the Province of Ontario is to undergo a complete study and revision within the next 12 months. Surely, we don't have to wait to revise the whole code? All we're asking for is to eliminate discrimination because of a physical handicap where that handicap does not interfere with an individual performing the services required of him by his or her employer.

The handicapped really need work. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce recently surveyed its members on other attitudes toward hiring handicapped workers. The results, to say the least, are astonishing. What emerges are several simple facts of life. Basically, business generally doesn't understand the handicapped person and is unaware of his abilities as a potential employee and

doesn't want that handicapped person around. The handicapped persons have enough problems, of course, in the business community and we certainly would like to see some of those problems being eliminated.

Being handicapped is tough enough; being handicapped and out of work because people are ignorant of your potential is tougher. The handicapped are not freaks. They are human beings and recognizing that can make all the difference for an employer. It can bring a handicapped person back from the dark rage of helplessness into the feeling of worth and productivity.

A gentleman by the name of Douglas Fullerton writing in one of the Toronto papers comments, "We have denied the handicapped the self-respect that comes from earning a living and we have denied ourselves the contribution that they can make in society." He suggests designating certain jobs as sheltered competition or providing a handicapped preference such as that given to veterans.

There are many other comments I could make concerning my legislation but for the sake of time I'm going to curtail them. The status of the disabled adult in our society may be likened to that of disadvantaged minority ethnic and religious groups. The able-bodied majority tend to maintain a certain social difference, often treating the disabled as outsiders, generally because many people feel uncomfortable in the presence of the disabled individual. The disabled adult is subject to group stereotyping and therefore discrimination on a whole basis. The handicapped person is discriminated against not only because of his physical disability but is also handicapped by the limitations imposed upon him by society.

Mr. Speaker, to conclude my remarks, the problem, or I should say the—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member has one minute.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, the problem of ignorance, which seems to be at the heart of the problem insofar as employment of the handicapped is concerned, will not be diminished by the amendment of the Ontario Human Rights Code. But government, however, does have a responsibility to enact such changes by removing at least some of the existing barriers to employment of the handicapped. We will be brought face to face with the question of ignorance.

If the government takes the lead through affirmative action of the kind I am proposing, it will facilitate the eventual battle with ig-

norance. Slowly, over a period of time, there will be no excuses remaining to deny equal employment opportunities to the disabled.

If government takes the lead through affirmative action of its own, there can be little or no excuse for others not to follow. Right now we are behind other jurisdictions as it relates to banning discrimination against the handicapped. And as we pride ourselves as being the province of opportunity, we have no excuse not to enact this legislation.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I will be speaking against this bill in its present form for two reasons, which reasons I will specify and elaborate upon in a few moments. However, before doing so, I wish to make it abundantly clear that I am as supportive as is the member for Windsor-Walkerville of the principle that there be no discrimination against a person or persons on the basis of a physical handicap.

I am certain that all members of this House take this position without exception. However, I am satisfied that the safeguards that the member seeks are already contained in the universal definition of the basic condition of man as set out in the Ontario Human Rights Code. Let us remember that the basic and fundamental purpose of the Ontario Human Rights Code is to codify the public policy in Ontario that every person is free and equal in dignity and rights without regard for race, creed, colour, sex, marital status, nationality, ancestry, or place of origin.

Mr. Speaker, that dignity and those rights are specifically provided for in the Act in the use of notices and signs in public places, in housing accommodation, in employment and in employment ads, in membership in trade unions, or in self-governing professions. In short, Mr. Speaker, the Act is to—and does in fact—ensure against discrimination of any type based on the human condition of man.

I would concede that this proposal has much greater merit than the amendment proposed to the Act last month by the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell). That amendment related to a choice of human behaviour, rather than to the basic human condition, and as such was not, in my judgement, four-square within the parameters of the statute. However, while the bill before us today does pertain to the basic human condition, I suggest that the particular bill would tend to weaken rather than strengthen the legislation.

While the member may argue to the contrary, the laws as formulated in the courts of this country would indicate that when legislation is enacted, when universal provisions are contained therein, when attempts are made to incorporate specific situations into the legislation that are intended to reinforce the universally applicable provisions of the Act, such specific references tend to dilute or weaken, rather than to strengthen the legislation.

This point of view has been expressed in case law on more than one occasion by learned judiciary, even when the universal catch-all clause, “without limiting the generality of the foregoing,” is set out in the legislation, as it is in section 9 of the Ontario Human Rights Code.

[5:30]

In addition thereto, the proposed bill before us is further watered down when one looks at subclause 5 of section 5, the employment section of the bill, which states:

The provisions of this section do not apply where the nature or extent of the physical handicap would reasonably preclude the performance of the particular employment.

I suggest that the term “reasonably preclude” is a matter of subjective opinion that has defied legal interpretation in the courts since the evolution of the English common-law system.

In order better to make the first point, I raise my second objection. I suggest that the proposed bill is itself highly discriminatory. I would never support a bill that purported to prevent discrimination on the basis of a physical handicap only, when the member has in this bill completely ignored that segment of our society which is handicapped because of mental condition.

The bill shows concern for the basic human physical condition while totally ignoring the basic human mental condition. Consequently, I suggest fairly that the bill which purports to fight against discrimination is itself discriminatory.

Mr. Swart: That sounds like a Conservative interpretation.

Mr. Mackenzie: The brightest I have heard.

Mr. Williams: Accordingly on these two grounds, while supporting the principle of being opposed to any form of discrimination, I would be opposed to this bill in its present form because it would dilute the existing provisions of the Ontario Human Rights Code

rather than reinforcing the existing provisions and protections contained therein.

Ms. Sandeman: Mr. Speaker, I am a little confused by the argument of the previous speaker about this dilution.

Mr. Mackenzie: So is everybody else.

Ms. Sandeman: I presume he would like to remove all the preamble about without regard to race, creed, colour, marital status and so on, but I don't want to pursue that argument.

As the previous speaker said, we are all in favour of the principle of this bill. It is very important to the handicapped that discrimination cease. There is no doubt that there is enormous amount of discrimination. If one way to help that process along is to codify our objection to discrimination by including it in the Human Rights Code then that might not be such a bad idea. But it seems to me that the Human Rights Code itself speaks to the difficulty of the handicapped, when it talks in generalities and specifics about acquiring jobs, finding a place to live and so on, because it is in those particular areas that the handicapped very often have their most difficult and frustrating experiences.

It seems to me, if our basic goal is to promote job opportunities and improve the potential of handicapped applicants to fill them, we must do more than just protect them under Ontario Human Rights Code. We must start by changing public attitudes about the capabilities of the handicapped. I know that is a difficult and lengthy procedure and the bill before us today speaks to the problem of changing public attitude. Then we have to go further than that; we have to concentrate on the removal of physical barriers that impede the handicapped in getting or doing a job. We are woefully backward in this province in that regard. We have actively to find job openings and help the handicapped to compete for them.

It is rather depressing when you discover that even within the government of Ontario, which has a vocational rehabilitation branch dealing with the handicapped, there is no active programme for the hiring of handicapped people even into that branch of government. If the people within the Ontario government who are concerned with rehabilitation of the handicapped don't give a lead, I don't know who would.

As the member who introduced the bill said, this bill is simple. He wanted to keep it simple to point out to the government that

action is needed. I think we must go beyond that, in keeping with the principle of the bill, and make sure that this government understands the need for broader action for the handicapped.

It is salutary to look at the experience of other jurisdictions and to see where legislation in other jurisdictions handles the very basic needs of the handicapped which we in Ontario are still ignoring in terms of jobs and places to live. For instance, in the United Kingdom the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act of 1970 first of all made it the duty of every local authority to inform themselves of the number of handicapped people within their jurisdiction. In other words, the first task you have to follow is to find out who you are providing services for; we don't even do that in Ontario. We say we don't want to discriminate against the handicapped; we don't yet even know, really, who our handicapped are.

The British law goes on to say that having discovered who the handicapped people are—there are very active programmes in many jurisdictions in Britain right now, many of them using students in summer jobs, to discover by going house to house where the handicapped people are. Having discovered that, it must be the duty of local authorities to meet the needs of that person by making arrangements for all or any of the following matters.

The list is very interesting: The provision of practical assistance for that person in his home. What are we doing about home care for the handicapped in Ontario? The provision for that person of or assistance to that person in obtaining wireless, television, library or similar recreational facilities. They go on to suggest we must provide lectures, games, outings and other recreational facilities outside the home; or assistance to that person to take advantage of educational facilities available to him.

They talk about the very basic problem that handicapped people have in moving around from their homes to the job. If we can persuade people not to discriminate against them in hiring, the handicapped person, having found a job, still has enormous difficulties in getting to it in many cases. The British legislation says that local authorities should provide that person with facilities for or assistance in travelling to and from his home for the purpose of participating in any services provided or jobs or so on.

They talk about adapting people's homes to help the handicapped person live there.

They talk about facilitating the taking of holidays by handicapped people. That is for the kind of severe handicap which prevents a person working and keeps him in his home 365 days of the year, often being helped by members of the family. We in Ontario haven't even realized yet that people like that cannot afford and do not have the opportunities for holidays. In other jurisdictions legislation is provided so that people shall take holidays at holiday homes or otherwise.

They talk about providing meals in the homes for the handicapped. They talk about providing telephones and any special equipment necessary to enable him to use a telephone. It is going far beyond the basic problem of discrimination and speaking to the practical everyday matters of how you live if you are a handicapped person.

In the United States, as we know, there is an ongoing president's committee on the employment of the handicapped. Every state in the union has a governor's committee on the employment of the handicapped. In Ontario we don't see a premier's committee on the employment of the handicapped or any local committees for that matter. The President of the United States recently announced that here would be a White House conference on handicapped individuals in December of this year and the goals stated for that conference should be our goals in Ontario.

Those goals reflect the needs of citizens with mental and physical handicaps. Their goals are to stimulate a national assessment of problems faced by individuals with physical or mental handicaps and, again, as in the British experience, speaking to the need to discover where we are lacking in our programmes.

Their second goal is to generate a national awareness of these problems. And the bill before us today, I think, is all part of that process of generating awareness of the problems of the handicapped and making us face them and meet them head on.

The third goal of the president's conference is to develop recommendations for legislative and administrative actions to allow individuals with handicaps to live their lives independently with dignity, and with integration into community life. Again, I would say that we have to move from the specifics of this bill in preventing discrimination into making sure that we do the very practical things which allow handicapped people to live independently, to find jobs, to be integrated into community life.

I think one of the most frustrating things for handicapped people at the moment is to recognize that across the province and across the country there are many, many government bodies working on their behalf. An American consumer group recently commented that it is no secret that there are more able-bodied people making a living off the handicapped, than there are persons with physical impairments making a good living in this affluent nation. I think we in Ontario have to reverse that procedure.

I think the bill before us today is a small, first step in the direction of making sure that handicapped people are recognized as full members of the community who are able to work, and very often who are denied that opportunity because of ignorance and prejudice which we must make it our business to overcome.

Mr. Haggerty: I am pleased to have been asked to express my views in support of Bill 23, An Act to amend the Ontario Human Rights Code, sponsored by my Liberal colleague, the member for Windsor-Walkerville, as a member who is dedicated to the principle of equality of opportunity for life enrichment for all of Ontario's citizens.

The purpose of the bill is to prevent discrimination on the basis of physical handicaps. The bill requires some 10 amendments to the present legislation and the major changes would require the inclusion of the words "physical handicap."

The present Ontario Human Rights Code prohibits discrimination in employment in several areas. That includes age, colour, creed and marital status, but does not include physical handicapped or disability.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a long road for many individuals and organizations, such as the many service clubs, the local associations to aid the mentally retarded, the Canadian Rehabilitation Council, which continues to enter upon programmes to make the public aware of the wide individual differences in living standards—and perhaps they haven't got through to the member for Oriole (Mr. Williams) on this particular issue—that exist among both the young and elderly citizens who, through some misfortune, such as a personal injury, birth defects or deformities, had been denied a place of employment and a place in our society.

I can recall just a couple of weeks ago when I had a young university graduate come into my constituency office in Port Colborne. He has obtained his BA and has an excellent mind. However, through some unfortunate

circumstance during childbirth, he developed a breathing problem. This later caused a motor co-ordination problem, and he has little strength to make full use of his hands. The youngster perhaps now will have problems trying to be accepted as a law student in one of the universities in the Province of Ontario. I would say that if this happens, it is discriminatory that such practice should continue in the Province of Ontario. Such arbitrary standards of value are not helpful to the person who is learning to recognize a wide range of abilities and interests in himself and others.

Mr. Speaker, if time would permit I could cite many cases of individuals with whom I have been in contact who have similar problems. Often employers may discriminate against those who have been emotionally upset or mentally ill. And even though there has been a complete recovery, they have not been hired or have been dismissed within a few days once the employer has been informed of the personal medical history of that individual. Many individuals have been excluded from major activities of a community on these bases of equal opportunity to employment. Many interest groups have provided ways to develop and provide stimulus and satisfying ways of providing a living to each individual.

[5:45]

I recall attending with the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) the official opening of the rehabilitation centre in the community in which he resides. It's called NTEC, Niagara Training and Employment Centre. I've talked on a number of occasions about this particular organization and the wonderful work that they've done in the community of the Niagara region. They've gone out and taken individuals who through some misfortune are not able to continue in the normal course of education—they may have an emotional problem or be mentally retarded—and developed a programme that has put many of them back into employment, back into the community to be useful citizens. I can cite cases where they go out to do this.

Right now, greenhouse facilities have been opened at Port Robinson. NTEC is going to train these students or youngsters and handicapped persons to look after greenhouses and to provide the plants for the different communities throughout the region. They will even go out and do the gardening work in a particular area. They've been able to look after the maintenance, the cleaning up and the environmental programmes at the Fort Erie race track. It just shows if an association

or a group of citizens is interested in such a programme it can do a job and provide the interest that these persons are looking forward to. Once this person has an opportunity to be gainfully employed, he's going to be a respectable citizen. I'm sure there are a number of good programmes over the last couple of years that the government has moved into in this particular area but, once a person can gain employment, he gains self-respect in that community.

I'm not a bit surprised that the member for Oriole indicated he does not support the bill. I think that's typical of the Tories at the present time. They talk about wanting to make a minority government work. This is one particular area where they can make it work. The amazing thing is it doesn't cost the government a cent, not one penny. There's no restraint required in this particular area. As the member for Windsor-Walkerville has indicated, Nova Scotia has entered into such a programme.

Of course, that's the difference between a Liberal and a Conservative. I think Liberals are interested in the particular areas of disability and the handicapped persons and they want to pursue policies of full employment which is so vital an issue to the disadvantaged in the Province of Ontario. And this is our main goal. The member for Windsor-Walkerville has stated he has spoken on it on three different occasions. I think it is the second time I have supported such a bill in the Ontario Legislature.

Perhaps the government may change its views. I look across the floor and I see the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Brunelle). The minister did a great job in Community and Social Services and provided much in the direction of improving equality of opportunity, particularly in the fields of the mentally retarded and the handicapped persons in Ontario. We miss him in that particular field at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, I concur with the principle of the bill. It's a good amendment to the Ontario Human Rights Code and I support it most heartedly.

Mr. Acting Speaker: The hon. member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

Mrs. Campbell: Is he coming into the 20th century?

Mr. Grossman: I'll manage. The member knows I will.

It's a pleasure to rise today for very many reasons, not the least of which is I get to

follow the member for Erie who suggested that hesitancy, if that's what is in fact occurring, is typical of the Tory government and Tory governments generally. I grant him the point that on most occasions Tory governments tend to look very carefully and come up with rather more specific programmes than, for example, the Prime Minister of Canada did today. I think the headline in the Star said that the solution to our problem was to love everyone which is not a bad idea but hardly a simple solution to all the world's problems.

Mr. Haggerty: He is quoting from the scriptures.

Mr. Swart: You people act carefully, like in closing hospitals.

Mr. Kennedy: Fun trying.

Mr. Grossman: In any event, I could stand here and use up not only the rest of private members' hour but the rest of the evening session in running a comparison of Liberal governments throughout Canada versus Tory governments. I suppose the latter would start with the Bill of Rights of Canada but as the Premier would say, I don't want to be controversial.

What I do want to do is make the point that I wholeheartedly support this legislation, this bill, as indeed I did support that proposed by the member for St. George a couple of weeks ago.

Mr. Haggerty: The hon. member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick should move over to this side.

Mr. Grossman: No, you should move over here.

The whole point of the Human Rights Code, of course, is that it has to be a living code. It has to be one which changes and moves with the times and meets problems as they come along and as attitudes change and, unfortunately, as other attitudes harden. After all, the two concepts of human rights—and there are two concepts there—form the foundation of a free society or, in a word, democracy. The rights are theoretically for all but the responsibility to see that the theory is translated into reality lies here, in the assembly, in the chambers of government. It is my view, in supporting the member's bill, we can go a long way toward discharging this vital responsibility which the people have conferred upon us.

What is government? To quote Burke, he described it as "A human contrivance de-

signed to meet human needs." Surely the extent to which all governments spend money, create legislation and implement legislation to provide such things as educational equality, economic equality of opportunity and so on, is very important and goes a long way toward meeting human needs. But as important—perhaps more important—is that human need of human dignity, self-respect. These are matters which have been referred to earlier by previous speakers.

I do quite agree that particularly in an area where no governmental expenditure is required; particularly in an area which contrasts so dramatically with those vast steps we take, those vast expenditures of money, in order to provide dignity and equality when it comes to education and economic matters, surely we can move immediately to provide that dignity and peace of mind which makes a physically handicapped person able emotionally and humanly to participate meaningfully in our society and to take advantage of some of the very expensive programmes we provide in order to provide equality of education; in order to provide some economic security. Without emotional security, without equality, emotionally, all of the other expenditures surely are meaningless.

I suppose in some respects, notwithstanding some earlier remarks, this is a motherhood issue we are discussing today.

Mr. Bounsall: It is needed, though.

Mr. Grossman: If it is a motherhood issue, why is it necessary? Why must we codify it, as I think we must, in the Human Rights Code? Obviously, although it is a motherhood issue, although it is something that all of us here, I would hope, believe in and others pay lip-service to, others are indeed only paying lip-service to it. When the crunch comes, so many people are prepared to disregard the ramps and handrails which building codes have required and say, "They may be there but I still prefer someone who is not physically handicapped." They don't say it; they just do it.

I think it is important that we reinforce the value of each and every citizen, of each and every person who is able and willing to take employment; he has a right to take that employment; he has a right to access to all the facilities of our country and of our province regardless of any physical handicap.

Sure, any piece of legislation in itself is not going to change attitudes but it can begin to force a change in attitudes or to encourage a change in attitudes. Most importantly,

it can surely be of some significant solace and support to the persons we are concerned about today, the physically handicapped, to let them know that this assembly, this Legislature, is prepared to codify in the Ontario Human Rights Code their right to participate fully in every way possible in our society.

I would not urge only the passage of this legislation but I would say I agree wholeheartedly that this is one of those matters which need not await the completion of the study currently going on to revamp the Human Rights Code. I can't resist the comment that I think it is fair to conclude that the study is going to widen the number of items, the number of subjects which come within the scope of the Human Rights Code. I think it is fair to assume that there is a realization on this side of the House that the Human Rights Code is a living code. It is one that must change and envelop more matters and take into account more disabilities and more prejudices.

Again, as I did several weeks ago, I can't help commenting that I'm sad that I have to rise in the House, many of us have to rise in the House, and deal with the reality of prejudice whether it relates to racial prejudice or whether it relates to physical handicaps or sexual preference.

Mr. Acting Speaker: I would draw to the hon. member's attention that there is one more speaker who would like to speak if he is not going to be too long.

Mr. Grossman: Very good. In conclusion, may I say I would hope that the mere fact of this debate today will be a clear sign to those physically handicapped persons that this assembly has very great concern for their rights and their problems in society. The day surely is not that far away when this debate will be reflected in legislation.

Mr. Bounsall: Mr. Speaker, in making the concluding remarks in the last two or three minutes of this debate, I want to state that I certainly regret that private members' bills do not come to a vote in this Legislature. I think the select committee may well recommend that. If they did, this bill would carry with no one voting against it except, perhaps, the member for Oriole and one or two other incredible neanderthals who might be in the House.

I want to assure the member for Oriole that this amendment is not covered in any way, shape or form by the present Act. I can give chapter and verse over the last four or five years, as Labour critic in this House

and critic of the Ontario Human Rights Commission of the number of times on which attempts have been made to enforce this. Because it is not covered by the Code there is no way in which a penalty for discrimination on this basis can be made effective against the company involved.

I am more than disappointed in the Ontario Human Rights Commission choosing to go on tour around the province to determine areas of changes. At best, it's a foot-dragging exercise and an excuse for not taking some immediate action which is very long overdue. For almost five years now I've spoken in this House, in the Labour estimates, in favour of including physical disability in the Human Rights Code as one of the areas in which discrimination is prevented. The Human Rights Commission is very aware of it; the field officers are very aware of it. They do not need to go around the province trying to determine if this is one of the areas in which change should be made.

I don't have very much time at all.

In conclusion, because that's all we have now, really, a conclusion, let me say that we actually need more than this in the Province of Ontario. In my last survey in my riding, I asked a question: "Would you favour legislation requiring employers to hire a percentage, two to four per cent, of disabled persons?"

Twenty per cent didn't know; 50 per cent said yes; and of the 30 per cent which said no, many of them stated that disabled persons shouldn't be required to work, or expressed concern that the particular work fit the disability. That's the reason that they were saying no. An overwhelming number of people wanted to see employment available to the disabled persons.

If industrial companies in this province were required to hire even that two to four per cent among the workmen disabled by industrial injuries in their own plants, you would see safety committees spring into action all across this province and you would see much safer working conditions right across this province.

That's the kind of legislation we need to ensure that the disabled, particularly those injured in an industrial accident, are returned usefully to the workplace, as well as all those other persons who simply cannot get a job—for example, an epileptic—because companies simply will not hire them.

In conclusion, we need this in the Human Rights Code and we need further legislation requiring companies to hire a percentage of their work force from the category which can

be defined as disabled, including hiring back and putting on the payroll in some useful form all of their own injured workmen.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise on a point of privilege, if I may. Earlier this afternoon in debate I was very critical of Dr. Prichard at the Hospital for Sick Children, in letters which he had written to members of the Grassy Narrows band indicating the possibility of neurological symptoms of mercury poisoning. I'm now given to under-

stand that Dr. Prichard used form letters with the authority and approval and the knowledge of senior medical officers and consultants in the Department of National Health and Welfare in Ottawa. So, let me say that I regret identifying him alone, although I must add that I am astonished that senior bureaucrats would also agree to a process quite so anonymous as form letters for a matter of a serious health issue. And I wanted to correct that as quickly as possible.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle moved adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX

(See page 2748)

Answers to written questions were tabled as follows:

19. Ms. Bryden—Inquiry of the ministry: What was the total cost of the series of meetings held in various centres around the province by the provincial Treasurer and other cabinet ministers to explain the restraint programmes in their ministries during December, 1975, and January, February and March, 1976, detailing for each ministry: (a) travel, food and accommodation expenses of ministers and provincial government employees attending the meetings; (b) meeting costs—rental of halls and equipment; (c) presentation costs—slides, mimeographed and printed material, media costs; (d) costs of any refreshments provided for persons attending meetings?

Answer by the Treasurer:

The following chronicles the costs incurred during the restraint tour organized by my ministry and attended by various ministers:

For reference purpose we have coded the information into four sections:

- (a) travel, food and accommodation expenses of ministers and provincial government employees attending the meetings;
- (b) meeting costs—rental of halls and equipment;
- (c) presentation costs—slides, mimeographed and printed material, media costs;
- (d) costs of any refreshments provided for persons attending meetings.

Hon. W. G. Davis, QC, Premier and President of the Council.	Nil	
Hon. J. P. MacBeth, QC, Provincial Secretary for Justice and Solicitor General		(a) \$ 45.56
Hon. M. Birch, Provincial Secretary for Social Development	Nil	
Hon. D. R. Irvine, Provincial Secretary for Resources Development	Nil	
Hon. W. D. McKeough, Treasurer of Ontario, and Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs		(a) 10,911.48 (b) 1,820.04 (c) 9,533.89
Hon. J. A. C. Auld, Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet	Nil	
Hon. W. Newman, Minister of Agriculture and Food	Nil	
Hon. R. McMurtry, QC, Attorney General	Nil	
Hon. H. C. Parrott, DDS, Minister of Colleges and Universities		(a) 65.00
Hon. J. A. Taylor, Minister of Community and Social Services		(a) 203.76
Hon. S. B. Handleman, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations	Nil	
Hon. J. R. Smith, Minister of Correctional Services	Nil	
Hon. R. Welch, QC, Minister of Culture and Recreation	Nil	
Hon. L. C. Henderson, Minister without Portfolio	Nil	
Hon. T. L. Wells, Minister of Education		(a) 2,773.00 (c) 92.00

Hon. D. R. Timbrell, Minister of Energy	Nil	
Hon. G. A. Kerr, QC, Minister of the Environment		(a) \$ 225.37
Hon. M. Scrivener, Minister of Government Services	Nil	
Hon. F. S. Miller, Minister of Health	Nil	
Hon. J. R. Rhodes, Minister of Housing		(a) 90.60
Hon. C. Bennett, Minister of Industry and Tourism	Nil	
Hon. B. Stephenson, MD, Minister of Labour	Nil	
Hon. L. Bernier, Minister of Natural Resources		(a) 225.00
Hon. A. K. Meen, QC, Minister of Revenue	Nil	
Hon. J. W. Snow, Minister of Transportation and Communications		(a) 478.05
Hon. R. Brunelle, Chairman of Cabinet and Minister without Portfolio		(a) 112.51
	Total	<u>\$26,576.26</u>

86. Mr. Moffatt—Inquiry of the ministry: What is the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations planning to do in the nature of consumer protection to deal with the problems arising from the ever-increasing number of self-service gasoline stations? Is the minister aware that because no regular inspection of oil levels and mechanical functions is available at such stations, the motorist is incurring costlier and more major repairs, with the result that the advertised savings on gasoline are negated by the increased outlay for repairs?

Answer by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations:

Our records show a decline in the number of gasoline service stations during the last five years; currently a total of 10,931 are licensed under the Gasoline Handling Act. Of that total, 972 (nine per cent) are of the self-serve type.

It is interesting also to note that specialty shops have assumed an important role and have made significant inroads into what previously was considered "service" work. A recent study conducted in the borough of Scarborough indicates that as of Dec. 31, 1974, service bays in specialty shops were available as follows:

Muffler shops	7, with 30 service bays available;
Transmission shops	10, with 40 service bays available;
Tire stores	21, with 142 service bays available; and
New car dealers	27, with 650 service bays available.
Total	<u>862</u> service bays available.

This 862 figure for 1974 increased from 649 in 1972.

At the same time, service stations had 472 service bays available for general work, a reduction from 513 in 1972. For the two-year period of the study, there was an increase of 172 (14.7 per cent) in the number of bays available to the public for work of various types on automobiles.

The self-serve principle does not appeal to all motorists. Therefore it is expected that an adequate mix of self-serve as well as conventional stations will be available to meet the demands of the motoring public.

91. Mr. Godfrey—Inquiry of the ministry: Will the Minister of Education table the cost of the Windsor Early Identification Project research which was funded under contract by the Ministry of Education beginning 1971-1972?

Windsor Early Identification Project

(a) Windsor Board of Education contracts

Contract period	Contract budget	Payments Fiscal years
April 1, 1971-March 31, 1972	\$39,220.00	1971/72—\$39,220.00
July 1, 1972-Aug. 30, 1973	48,899.96	1972/73— 28,000.00
Sept. 1, 1973-Aug. 31, 1974	43,950.00	1973/74— 42,874.96
Sept. 1, 1975-Aug. 31, 1975	41,000.00	1974/75— 42,975.00
		1975/76— 20,000.00
	<u>\$173,069.96</u>	<u>\$173,069.96</u>

(b) Dissemination costs

750 copies of printed report (done by OISE)

Editing	\$ 350.00	
Layout and artwork	120.00	
Printing	1,557.77	
Promotion	190.00	
Distribution and inventory handling	375.00	
	<u>\$ 2,592.77</u>	\$2,592.77

(c) Production of two films

Feasibility study	\$ 2,500.00	
Production costs paid to March 31, 1976	10,825.04	
Projected cost for completion	10,071.08	
	<u>\$23,396.12</u>	23,396.12
		<u>\$25,988.89</u>

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Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
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Mackenzie, R. (Hamilton East NDP)
Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
McClellan, R. (Bellwoods NDP)
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Shore, M. (London North L)
Singer, V. M. (Wilson Heights L)
Smith, G. E.; Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (Simcoe East PC)
Smith, Hon. J. R.; Minister of Correctional Services (Hamilton Mountain PC)
Smith, R. S. (Nipissing L)
Smith, S. (Hamilton West L)
Snow, Hon. J. W.; Minister of Transportation and Communications (Oakville PC)
Spence, J. P. (Kent-Elgin L)
Stokes, J. E.; Deputy Speaker and Chairman (Lake Nipigon NDP)
Swart, M. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Timbrell, Hon. D. R.; Minister of Energy (Don Mills PC)
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Welch, Hon. R.; Minister of Culture and Recreation (Brock PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L.; Minister of Education (Scarborough North PC)
Williams, J. (Oriole PC)
Ziemba, E. (High Park-Swansea NDP)



Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Tuesday, June 1, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege. On May 31, the hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) reported to this House as follows:

Mr. Speaker, I have further information in connection with a question asked in this House on May 20 by the hon. member for Niagara Falls, who I see isn't with us this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I was in my place when the hon. minister got up to make this report. In fact, he sent me a copy of the report by a page. I would have the record show that he wasn't correct. It's strange that he is not in his place today so that I can direct this comment toward him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think the hon. member has made his point.

Statements by the ministry.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House about the measures we've taken in the past while to strengthen the Health Ministry's occupational health protection branch. These actions have to do with organization, management and staffing and will provide increased support to the branch. This branch is involved in the planning and implementing of preventive measures, effective follow-up of defined hazards, comprehensive and rapid communications and handling urgent situations.

As of May 2, 1976, the occupational health laboratory and the radiation laboratory have been transferred to the control of the occupational health branch. Previously, these two laboratories reported to the assistant deputy minister of institutional services. These moves are particularly appropriate for communica-

tion, and for the defining and responding to priorities for action by the labs.

Appropriate elements of the x-ray inspection service and the industrial chest disease service—the latter presently under the clinic services branch—are being transferred to the occupational health protection branch. By gathering together these vital components of occupational health service, their co-ordination will be more easily achieved. This is essential, because large numbers of both well-known and new chemicals are coming into increasing use and preventing or minimizing exposure to health hazards is essential.

To speed communication, the occupational health protection branch, through its director, now reports directly to the assistant deputy minister, community health services.

Dr. Max Fitch has been appointed acting director of the branch and recruitment for 10 additional positions for the branch, mainly scientific and professional personnel, has also been authorized.

An intensive provincial, national and international search, then, will be made for various categories of occupational health personnel, such as those in occupational-health nursing, engineering and health physics, but I must advise the members that such personnel are not easy to find.

There is a severe shortage of occupational health manpower and of facilities for training them. The planning and implementation of preventive measures, the definition and follow-up of new hazards, and the expeditious handling of potential health risks requires first and foremost the production of adequate occupational health professional and technical manpower for deployment. This is required not only in this ministry, but in other provincial and federal ministries and departments, as well as in industry.

The occupational health protection branch is offering short courses now for Ministry of Labour personnel and others. The types of short courses being given are: Principles of industrial hygiene; ventilation; monitoring air sampling; and noise control.

We expect the Advisory Council on Occupational and Environmental Health to make

recommendations in this area. We will also be contacting universities and other educational institutions, as well as government and non-government agencies, both provincial and federal, during the next several weeks. We will encourage and advance as quickly as possible a co-ordinated, province-wide response to the needs for occupational health manpower.

The initiatives I have outlined above still form only part of the necessary action. The problems and hazards in the expanding field of occupational and environmental health have been the subject of considerable research. Much more research is required. We are looking for a combined industry/government approach to the mechanisms and funding requirements of both training and research.

I have described, then, a number of specific measures that have been implemented where it is in the power of this ministry to do so. Other measures I have outlined, which require the agreement and action of other agencies, we are pursuing vigorously.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance to the Province of Ontario of the forest industry in northwestern Ontario, I wonder if the Minister of Natural Resources could make a brief statement about the fire conditions in northwestern Ontario?

FOREST FIRES

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, at the present time we have 65 fires burning in the Province of Ontario; 21 new ones as of last night. Our total extra firefighters in the Province of Ontario range about 850 at the present moment. Fire No. 7—we refer to Ignace as No. 7—is in fairly good shape. The west side of the fire is giving us some concern but the east side and the north side are surrounded with hoses and pumps. We think we can contain it to about the 75 square miles that it has gone now.

The fire at Minaki is under control and I would say, in view of the lightning that swept across northwestern Ontario last night that caused I think 17 out of 21 of those particular fires—they are relatively small and we feel relatively comfortable at this point in time.

The indications for the next few days are not encouraging. We don't expect any precipitation at all and the humidity should remain just about the same, at about 40 per cent.

Mr. Reid: No towns are in danger?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No towns are in danger.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oral questions.

GRASSY NARROWS RESERVE

Mr. Lewis: I have a question first to the Minister of Health. Is it possible for the Minister of Health to table now the two reports in which Dr. Prichard of the Sick Children's Hospital was a direct participant, the one on the actual results of the testing at Grassy Narrows a couple of months ago and the other on the visit to Japan which I gather has been with the minister or the ministry for almost two months?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The latter part is not correct. In fact, I share the anxiety of the Leader of the Opposition for that report. I have seen drafts of the report and I have been pressing and pressing for a final copy of it, so that it may be released.

I have talked about it as recently as this morning. I know Dr. Stobo Prichard, although he is naturally contributing to the report, has expressed his concern, I believe publicly, about the slowness of the report. It is not being prepared within my ministry, and therein lies one of the problems. We're depending upon people who were on the trip, some of whom were government employees and some of whom were not. It is being summarized, I believe, tomorrow night and I hope that a finalized draft will be given to me. I will do my best to see the report is then made public as quickly as possible after that.

Insofar as the tests go, I don't have the detailed tests on the individuals. I have with me for the information of the Leader of the Opposition, and I'll be glad to pass them to him, copies of a number of letters passing back and forth between Dr. Stobo Prichard and certain members of the bands and members of the federal government too in the period between March and May. I would suggest he read some of them because these will give him an indication of how hard Dr. Prichard has worked to try to establish a rapport and how unhappy he was at the need to use relatively brief letters for his results. Also, and I think this is perhaps very nice, on May 27 there was a letter from Joseph Ququat, who is the chief of the Grassy Narrows band, which perhaps I'd be allowed to quote in part. He says:

First of all, I would like to thank you again for writing to me and the council regarding your position as head of the clinical part of the mercury study in our reservation.

Let me assure you that we, the band council of Grassy Narrows, feel that you should remain as the head of the clinical part of the mercury study as we feel you have the best qualifications to fill that position.

And they go on. Quite honestly, I believe the gentleman has done his best to explain in advance what he was doing. There were some communications breakdowns which I think this correspondence will show were not his fault. He, in turn, is determined that he must work properly with the people up there and have their co-operation or all his work will be of no avail. If I may, I will pass these over for your scrutiny.

Mr. Lewis: I guess he didn't feel they were guilty of sabotage.

Can I ask the minister, by way of a supplementary, how many examples of neurological disorders were identified on the Grassy Narrows reserve? How many cases?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think Dr. Stobo Prichard put them in two very simple categories, no abnormalities of any kind and some abnormality. As I recall on the one reserve—and the member has the data on his desk—he'll find it's about 25-25 on one reserve. It's almost an exact split. There are just about as many showing none as showing some. On the other reserve, there were about half as many showing no symptoms of any neurological disturbance as showed some symptoms. He then put them in three categories, no disturbance, a disturbance that in his opinion was not related to mercury, and a disturbance that could be related to mercury.

Mr. Lewis: Given that he found 31 people on Grassy Narrows and Whitedog, I must say this is higher than even the Japanese scientists who could be—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Could you frame your remarks in the form of a question please?

Mr. Singer: It is about time.

Mr. Lewis: Sorry. Since he found 31 residents of the reserve who could have their symptoms attributable to mercury poisoning, what follow-up is the ministry doing?

[2:15]

Hon. F. S. Miller: I've kept very close to this particular issue. They have symptoms. If one studies the symptoms the neurologist will consider as being abnormal—I may get into some incorrect medical terminology in the course of all this—there'd be restricted vision,

No. 1. There'd be some tremors, No. 2. There will be paresthesia all right—that's the problem around here, isn't it? Around one's mouth where there is a feeling of pins and needles or something to that effect? All of which can be related to other problems but which we shouldn't assume are related to other problems. I think as long as we take that approach we're not trying to hide a problem; we're trying to define it.

I've had the opportunity to read the draft reports. I've had an opportunity to see, in other words, the bulk of what's going to come out of this. I'm both partly relieved and partly concerned and I'm sure the hon. member is going to be when he sees it, too. I think one of the key problems we will face is that we will have to work with the Indian people to decide what form of co-operation we can get from them that they can live with as we explore this problem further.

POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF WHITEDOG TOURIST ROAD

Mr. Lewis: A question, if I may—thank you for calling me to order, Mr. Speaker—to the Chairman of Cabinet: Does he not feel that we may be heading for an unhappy confrontation on June 10 when the Whitedog reserve closes the road leading to the tourist camps? Is it therefore possible for the minister or a member of cabinet or the government in whatever form to meet with the band in order to indicate what the government intends to do about the possible closing of fishing on the Wabigoon system or, if the government's not going to close it, what the rationale is so that we can avoid the confrontation?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, we're certainly prepared to do that if necessary but I'd like to say to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, after listening to him yesterday, that there is some very positive action being taken. For instance, we have a replacement—Mr. Perkins was replaced by Mr. Martin who's giving special attention to that area. Also, the two Indian bands wrote to me about two weeks ago asking if we would fund a special community consultant, a Mr. Bruce Crofts, who's been very active for the last number of months and we have agreed to this. Those gentlemen are on site and, if necessary, we're certainly willing to go there.

Mr. Lewis: He's leaving.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: There have been some very positive steps taken and, if necessary,

we're prepared to go there and to assist in preventing this confrontation on June 10.

Mr. Lewis: Thank you.

REED PAPER AGREEMENT

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Minister of Natural Resources, if I may: In the expansion proposals which are under negotiation with Reed Paper, what exactly was the nature of the participation of Treaty No. 9, I guess it would be, in these preliminary negotiations which have covered an entire year, or in any individual bands within Treaty No. 9? How has the government involved them?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, at the time of the announcement or shortly after I met with the president, Andy Rickard, and gave him a map outlining the area we were discussing with the Reed Paper Co. In the period of time since then my staff have met with Mr. Rickard and brought him up to date in a verbal way. Also, members of my staff have visited such places as Cat Lake, Pikangikum and Deer Lake to inform the local people as to what approach will be taken and to inform them that before any final agreement is settled there would be a public meeting held in that particular area at which the Reed Paper Co. would reveal and unveil to the general public what its plans are with regard to the resources, the plant itself and the environmental conditions, and to answer, of course, any questions the people might want to put forward.

Mr. Lewis: Since this is a \$400 million project we're discussing, is it possible for the minister to insist as a quid pro quo, if he's determined to conclude the negotiation with an agreement, that Reed should contribute a certain amount of money designated fairly by government to help with the compensation for and problems on the Whitedog and Grassy Narrows reserves?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, we have been dealing solely with the vast timber tracts north of Red Lake and Pickle Lake, about 18,000 square miles. We're making sure that any development which goes in there, of course, meets all the environmental requirements of this province and all other jurisdictions. We have not undertaken to tie the two plants together, the existing plant and the future one.

Mr. Lewis: Does the minister not think this would be an opportunity for him, short

of a legal suit, to exact from the Reed Paper Co. some kind of legitimate compensation for what they were engaged in?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I don't know, Mr. Speaker, if we can take that route. No legal jurisdiction has ever pointed at the Reed Paper Co. As you know—

Mr. Nixon: The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr) said the polluter has to pay.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, but it has to be proved that they are responsible and have polluted to that extent.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, come on. Is that what is holding everything up?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I would say to you, Mr. Speaker, that while our paper mills in this province have been recognized—

Mr. Breithaupt: There couldn't be that many broken thermometers.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —as one of the largest polluters that we have, and certainly there is a background count as it relates to the mercury, so I don't feel it is my position at this point in time, in these early discussions to get development going, to interject that other aspect of it.

Mr. Kerrio: Let's declare war on them.

Mr. Mancini: Put them in jail.

Mr. Roy: Has the minister sought a legal opinion on this? If he has, from whom has he sought this legal opinion and may we have access to it to see what his position is, or the reason why he is posturing in this fashion, as there is no legal precedent for repayment by the one who contributed to the pollution?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, I have not sought legal opinion, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, how does the minister establish proof without seeking legal opinion? And is he aware that the government of Manitoba has just filed suit against the Reed Paper Co. to seek \$2 million in order to compensate fishermen, including native peoples, for the loss of their commercial livelihood?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I wasn't aware of that particular suit, Mr. Speaker, but I understand there was an earlier one which they lost, or something, I wasn't aware of the new one.

Mr. Lewis: That's abandoned.

Mr. Singer: Could the minister not seek the advice of his colleague, who has had such great experience in suing polluters, and get his advice about how a suit like Dow is being handled? Perhaps he could use that as a precedent.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, I will, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Roy: What you are expressing is your own personal opinion, isn't it?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think there have been enough supplementaries. The hon. Leader of the Opposition with a new question.

DUST PROBLEMS AT FORT FRANCES PAPER MILL

Mr. Lewis: A question to the Minister of Labour, if I may: Why didn't the inspectors from the Ministry of Labour visit the Fort Frances pulp and paper mill, as they indicated in writing they would do at the end of May, when there was a TV Guide run?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge when the Ministry of Labour was informed that there would be a TV Guide run, they asked the health protection branch inspectors specifically to go to that plant at that time. Unfortunately, another inspection took precedence—the Match Plate plant in Hamilton—and the inspectors were in Hamilton instead of in Fort Frances on that date.

Mr. Deans: What's the matter, have you only got two inspectors?

Hon. B. Stephenson: However, we have asked the plant at Fort Frances to please let us know as soon as there is another TV Guide run so that we can have inspectors there.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, you will forgive the gratuitous comment that I hope we never need two inspections at one time in this province in any area.

May I ask the minister, by way of supplementary: Did the Ministry of Labour inspectors ever inform her that the major problems seem to be the simple coagulation of dust throughout the plant in the normal processes of operation, and that if there were vacuum sweepers the irritation for the employees would largely be eliminated and she could solve the problem fairly simply in that way?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure we have been specifically informed about the need for vacuums in this plant. This is one of the reasons, however, that I

have been pressing for female industrial safety inspectors, because it seems to me that females are a little more sensitive to house-keeping conditions than perhaps some males are—and I would hope that within our ministry we will be able to increase the female enrolment of staff to do just that.

Mr. Lewis: That's a lovely sexist observation that if they need to vacuum—

Mr. Reid: A little female chauvinism there, I think.

Mr. Lewis: It is male chauvinism.

Mr. Reid: Can the minister give us a guarantee that those people from her ministry and the Ministry of Health will, in fact, carry out the inspection in the next run of TV Guide paper?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can.

Mr. Deans: Unless something happens.

NIAGARA CENTRE FOR YOUTH CARE FUNDING

Mr. Breithaupt: A question of the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker: Is the minister aware that the proposal for a teenage service system operated by the Niagara Centre for Youth Care cannot be implemented due to financial restraints in the children's mental health services division?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, I am, Mr. Speaker. I have spoken to that group two or three times. It has a high priority, and we are trying to find funds. They will not be for this year, but it is one of those programmes we wish to finance.

Mr. Breithaupt: Would the minister not agree that if he was able to avoid the payment of the nearly \$1 million to Browndale (Ontario) for management services he might well have the funds therein to fund this very programme?

Hon. F. S. Miller: That makes an assumption that may not necessarily be correct.

Mr. Breithaupt: Is the minister prepared at least to look into the situation to find out what those management fees are and to report to the House about them?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have already done so.

MALVERN HOME PROGRAMME

Mr. Breithaupt: A question of the Minister of Housing with respect to the HOME programme at Malvern: Will the minister inform the House of the market value assigned to lots leased to home buyers under the HOME programme, particularly for those who purchased toward the end of 1973 and in 1974?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Yes, I will make that information available.

Mr. Breithaupt: Can the minister give us an idea as to when it might be available, since the homeowners involved will need it to assess their present position with respect to whether or not to enter into an agreement of sale with Ontario Housing?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I don't think that should take too long to get. I should have it very shortly for the hon. member.

ALLEGED ASSAULT BY
PEEL DETECTIVES

Mr. Breithaupt: Finally, a question of the Solicitor General: Does the Solicitor General have a response with respect to the request by Judge Langdon, as reported over the weekend, for an inquiry into an alleged assault of an accused person by two detectives in the Peel regional force?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I didn't hear the start of that question. Did the hon. member ask if I had a request?

Mr. Breithaupt: Does the minister have any response to the comments made by Judge Langdon with respect to the situation?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: No. I understood he was going to get in touch with the Solicitor General and make a request, but I have had no request from him. I am just going from what the newspaper said. I have also had some evidence that he may have had some wrong information himself, but I have not yet received that request—and maybe I will not receive it.

LAYOFF OF CGE WORKERS

Hon. B. Stephenson: On May 27, the member for Dovercourt (Mr. Lupusella) asked a question about the Canadian General Electric Davenport plant in Toronto, regarding the possible violation of the Employment Standards Act.

The employment standards branch of the ministry has investigated this particular lay-off and there has been no violation of the Act. The legislation does allow an employer to put employees on temporary layoff for an extended period of time when the employer maintains all benefits. The fact that the employer has not named a particular date of recall does not necessarily mean that this is an indefinite layoff, and in fact it apparently is not.

A number of employees of Canadian General Electric, Davenport, have been placed on temporary layoff over the last few months, and at present 251 remain on the recall list. Apparently the method which is used is one that has been used for the past several years by that specific company and is very well known to the union and its members.

Mr. Lupusella: Supplementary: Can the minister tell the House if there is any indication of when all of those 300 employees will be back to work?

Hon. B. Stephenson: There are 251 remaining on the recall list at the moment and I don't have the specific dates for all of them.

SUSPENSION OF STELCO WORKER

Mr. Mackenzie: A question of the Minister of Labour. Is the minister aware that a Stelco employee was disciplined and sent home from work on April 26 for refusing an order of his foreman to operate a 60-ton crane, which both he and his foreman agreed was unsafe? Is the minister further aware that an appeal by the union to Mr. Earle May and inspector Bergie of the Hamilton office of the industrial safety branch brought a ruling by inspector Bergie that under section 34(1) of the Industrial Safety Act a foreman has the right to order an employee to work in an unsafe operation in a "controlled situation"?

Given the minister's remarks in the Globe that workers are urged to refuse unsafe work and to set up their own safety watch, what does this do to her credibility if this situation is allowed?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am not aware of that particular situation, but I shall most certainly investigate it.

Mr. Mackenzie: Supplementary: Can we get an interpretation of section 34(1) that lets us know whether or not one of the inspectors can instruct or authorize a foreman to allow an employee to work in an unsafe operation in a controlled situation?

Mr. Bullbrook: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour but, if I might interject, your conduct supports the position that I have had for many years, that a permanent Speaker would be a meritorious idea for this assembly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That was not a question, I take it?

Mr. Bullbrook: As a matter of fact, it was entirely out of order.

Mr. Roy: Yes, you should have ruled him out of order.

Mr. Singer: Make him sit down.

[2:30]

CCH CANADIAN LTD.

Mr. Bullbrook: I want to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that a memorandum forming the basis of settlement between the Toronto Typographical Union No. 91 and CCH Canadian Ltd. had been executed on the ministry's stationery on behalf of the union by its president, Mr. Buller, and others and on behalf of the company purportedly by one James Heather, and that that memorandum says, inter alia: "The undersigned representatives of the parties agree to unanimously recommend acceptance to their respective principals"; and in view of the reported comments in this morning's Globe of Mr. Heather, and I quote: "Yesterday company counsel"—that's wrong, he's not counsel, he's a corporate executive—"James Heather said he would recommend against ratification of the terms of the settlement he signed on behalf of the company," could the minister personally consider intervention into this case to see what exactly is going on?

And, by way of supplementary, to get it out of the way, could she call upon the Ontario Labour Relations Board to expedite immediately, if not sooner, the resolution of the section 79 application in connection with bad-faith bargaining?

Hon. B. Stephenson: There has been a number of interventions in this specific dispute by the Ministry of Labour, both personally and indirectly. It is unfortunate that apparently the representative of the employer has made some rather peculiar statements, in view of the fact that he signed the memorandum of agreement. There can be no doubt about that fact that we shall be urging both parties to ratify this agreement. The

Labour Relations Board has specifically stated it will not resume its hearings until the decision regarding possible ratification is made known to it. Then they will make the decision about whether they will resume the hearing or not.

Mr. Bullbrook: Then am I correct in assuming, by way of supplementary, that the board has set a date for June 15, two weeks hence, in this connection? Would the minister not agree in the circumstances, since she is obviously privy to them, as am I, that perhaps she could use the weight of her office to ask the Ontario Labour Relations Board to consider bringing it before them more quickly?

Hon. B. Stephenson: The Labour Relations Board is a quasi-judicial body and I think that might almost be tantamount to phoning a judge. I'm not quite sure. If it is possible to persuade them to adjust the date that they have decided upon, we shall try to do so.

INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS

Mr. Kennedy: A question of the Minister of Health: Would the minister advise on the present status of the availability of influenza vaccine? Would he enlarge on that as to how much is available, who is to receive the treatment and when this would be carried out?

Hon. F. S. Miller: My understanding is that while I was away the federal government arranged to buy about 7.5 million doses of flu vaccine. If my memory is correct it's buying it in two categories, monovalent and bivalent. It's buying about 1.5 million doses of the bivalent category for use for people over 65, if I'm not wrong. I may have the numbers reversed, but that's the figure I recall. They are distributing them to the provinces on a priority basis for use with those people at greatest risk, like me, that is, people who have had heart trouble or some other disease or people over 65.

Mr. Reid: You get it on both counts.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Thanks a lot. I hope I can some day say that.

Mr. Reid: You will.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the hon. minister ignore the interjections and answer directly the question?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Interjections, Mr. Speaker, from the north always have to be listened to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Not always, I might say.

Hon. F. S. Miller: In any case, we will be giving these doses of serum to the health units of the Province of Ontario for free distribution to those people at risk and that will start in September.

Mr. Kennedy: Supplementary: Will the actual injections be conducted by government personnel or MOH personnel or one's own physician?

Hon. F. S. Miller: We are leaving the responsibility with the MOH. The MOHs may have trouble mustering enough staff—although I don't think they should have—to carry this out with their own staff. The Ontario Medical Association at one time had offered to provide the service free and I would think that if the MOHs had trouble they might work with some local doctors.

ABORTION STUDIES

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) asked me a question yesterday about the Etobicoke Board of Education and the pupils in grade 9 and 10 physical and health education courses being required to take a course on abortion, or being subjected to abortion being taught in the health education programme. I would like to read into the record a statement issued this morning by Mr. J. D. Baker, the director of education for the Board of Education for Etobicoke. He said:

In the grade 9 and 10 physical and health education courses there is a health education component. It makes up about one-fifth of the total course, amounting to usually one period a week. In this, many subjects are discussed, including nutrition, human values, the family, the physiological and sociological aspects of adolescence and the communicable diseases.

Birth control and abortion are discussed as matters having wide religious and social implications for modern society. Abortion is certainly not advocated or encouraged.

Any student whose parents object to this or any topic of discussion within the physical and health education curriculum may arrange to remain absent from the particular class or classes where the topic is discussed. The student could take the remainder of the

physical and health education courses without prejudice to his or her position. No student would have to drop out of the entire course to avoid any discussion of a particular topic.

FLOOD CONTROL

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. As the minister knows, on top of everything else, the wild rice crop harvested by both Grassy Narrows and Whitedog reserves has been virtually wiped out for each of the past two years as a result of flooding by Ontario Hydro, representing a crop loss of approximately \$1 million a year; will the minister give this House his absolute assurance that he will act to prevent a similar destruction of the 1976 wild rice crop, regardless of the timetable for construction of flood control dams?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, as the member, I am sure, well knows the control of flood waters in that particular area is managed by the Lake of the Woods Control Board, made up of officials from Minnesota, Manitoba, Ontario and the federal government. I have, along with my federal counterpart, pressed the Lake of the Woods Control Board to exercise as much care and caution as they can in the dumping of that water at specific periods of time.

Mr. McClellan: With what results?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I am told that the priority lies with the development of hydro power. I am also told, and I know, having lived in that country all my life and having dealt with the wild rice problem, that there are so many other factors relating to a good wild rice crop such as wind or rain at a very crucial time, because it only lasts—

Mr. McClellan: That's not what I am after.

Mr. Lewis: Come on.

Mr. Renwick: The flooding didn't have anything to do with it?

Mr. Lewis: Your ministry permits the flooding.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —for a short period of time. I have to say that not all the wild rice is harvested in that particular area and the \$1 million figure is extreme because it takes in the whole of northwestern Ontario; that's where we get \$1 million. For some unknown reason, we cannot predict which will be a

good year or which will be a bad year, we have to wrest with nature.

Mr. Lewis: You are kidding.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I am not, with all due respect.

Mr. Reid: One trip to the north and he is an expert.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: With all due respect, sir, we have conditions—certainly the water levels do exacerbate and aggravate the situation.

Mr. Renwick: Everybody knows that that is not the point, and you know it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We cannot rely on a regular crop each and every year because of the weather conditions and other factors.

Mr. Lewis: You can't rely on any crop in that sense.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That's right. Certainly I will give the member my assurance and will continue to give him my assurance that I will press the Lake of the Woods Control Board and Ontario Hydro not to dump large quantities of water at crucial periods of time. If they can phase this dumping over a long period of time, then the water levels are maintained at a very stable level, which will not have an adverse effect on the overall wild rice crop.

Mr. McClellan: By way of supplementary—and I hope the minister is more effective than he has been in the last two years—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That's not a question.

Mr. McClellan: —let me ask if he will give us his absolute commitment that all expansion of wild rice growing areas in the region be exclusively set aside for the benefit of native people?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: If I may add to the earlier part of the question before I answer the second part of the other question, I would point out to the hon. member that in recent discussions with the Whitedog and Grassy Narrows area, particularly the Whitedog area, we have offered the engineering services of my ministry to assist them in putting up a dam which would—

Mr. Lewis: You mean to repair a dam.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Repair a dam. That's right.

Mr. Lewis: That was broken by virtue of government.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, not by virtue of government, with all due respect.

Mr. Lewis: How does the minister account for the drop in water?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. minister ignore the interjections and respond directly to the supplementary by the member for Bellwoods?

Mr. Nixon: He was very nearly misleading us on that one.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The \$25,000 will be given by the federal government. We will provide the engineering services because these are waters off the fluctuating levels of the English and Wabigoon river system. We hope by this action and by this dam construction that we can reactivate wild rice crops in that particular area.

Getting back to the last part of the question, with regard to setting aside a certain resource for a specific group, we have indicated to those people in that area, in the Kenora area, that those areas licensed to them that is, their traditional harvesting areas, the area where they have been harvesting wild rice over the last number of years which are now licensed to them, will remain with them. What we are saying is that there are thousands of lakes in northern Ontario that can support additional wild rice crops if cultivated. We're allowing these to go to Indian bands and to other people who may be interested in planting their own wild rice, controlling those water levels and encouraging the wild rice crop, because we are down on the bottom of the totem pole when it comes to developing that particular product.

Minnesota has done much better than we have, as has the Province of Manitoba. I would say to you, sir, that we're working very closely with the University of Manitoba, which has excelled in the research of wild rice production in that part of Ontario and that part of Canada.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think we have spent enough time on that question.

CARE OF ADULT RETARDED

Mr. R. S. Smith: I have a question of the Minister of Health. Would the minister tell me how many people are in the psychiatric hospitals under his administration who have been designated as adult retarded and actu-

ally come under the administration of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor)?

Secondly, what negotiations are taking place between the two ministries in regard to the care of these people, and is he aware that in some of the psychiatric hospitals, because of the lack of negotiations and the lack of fruition of those negotiations, there are untrained and understaffed areas of people looking after those people who have been designated as adult retarded?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'm not sure I understand the question completely. I'm not sure whether the member is implying that people are in our mental hospitals who suffer only from mental retardation.

Mr. R. S. Smith: That's right.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I know certainly that we have a number of people in our hospitals who are retarded but suffer from mental and emotional problems in addition to their retardation.

Mr. R. S. Smith: No, I'm referring to the first group.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Then I would have to look into the file to see what numbers there are, because I don't have them at my fingertips. I would rather take the question as notice than reply.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Supplementary: Could the minister also indicate to me why or how an administrator of a psychiatric hospital can remove retarded people from homes for special care or give them 24 hours' notice that they must either come back to the hospital or stay out on their own and be completely cut off from the services of the hospital? In fact, how did this happen last Friday at North Bay? There were five people in the home for special care who were under the administration of the psychiatric hospital and were given that alternative and chose to remain outside of the care of the hospital, and with no financial assistance provided to them.
[2:45]

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I'd want to know the details in case there were some problems of a specific home for special care. There may have been. It may well be, also, that these people had reached a state where they were almost ready to survive in the community on their own, and I think I'd need to have details about the specific people. One of the objectives, of course, of some of these programmes is hopefully to rehabilitate some

people well enough to survive, not necessarily without "protection" but with less than rigid supervision, in the community, sometimes earning their own living. That, of course, is what we want to do.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Of course, in that case you wouldn't ask them to go back into the institution?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Only if it was in their own interests on a short-term basis.

CONTROL OF TRAIL BIKES

Mr. di Santo: I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications, Mr. Speaker, and it's on the control of trail bikes in urban areas, and on the current controversy in North York over trail bike use around areas between Queens Dr. and Lawrence Ave. and Don Mills and Leslie. I'd like to ask the minister what kind of action he's going to take in order to reassure the citizens who have been complaining that the use of trail bikes in these areas has disrupted the peace of their neighbourhoods, and also I'd like to ask the minister if he will consider allowing the municipalities to pass restricting legislation on trail bikes?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, due to the length of that question and due to the fact that I'm not quite sure I got the full content of it, I will take it as notice and I'll get the member the answer.

PCB LEVELS IN FISH

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources: Is the minister aware of a report by the federal environment researchers that could quite possibly close the Great Lakes fishery—a report that's before the Environment Minister Jean Marchand, Health Minister Marc Lalonde, and Fisheries Minister Roméo LeBlanc? Is he aware of that report?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Kerrio: A supplementary then: Is the minister aware that the report shows the PCB levels are the highest in Lake Ontario, possibly 10 times the 2.5 parts per million that's accepted as safe, and does he recall reporting to this House not too long ago that the fish that were caught in Lake Ontario were reasonably safe?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, Mr. Speaker, this is entirely incorrect. I believe I indicated to this

House that my deputy, in a speech to the outdoor writers about two or three weeks ago at Dorset, indicated at that time that commercial fishing was being closed in Ontario for coho and chinook salmon, for catfish and for eels, and that there was no danger with regard to rainbow trout because they are not caught commercially. We've already taken action to stop commercial fishing of those species in Lake Ontario.

Mr. Deans: This all flows from some questions asked two weeks ago by myself and other people. Is the minister prepared to issue a statement which clearly sets out the PCB levels in all of the various types of fish available in the Great Lakes, and in particular Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, in order that those people, commercial or otherwise, who fish in the area are able to determine whether or not what they are catching is edible?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I think the confusion lies in the fact that one of the hon. members asked me about the PCB levels of smelt, and we did take some further tests and we found that—

Mr. Deans: I asked that earlier.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —the levels were below the danger point and I so announced this to this Legislature. The suggestion that we give broad information on all the species, on all the contaminants is a good one and I'll certainly take it under consideration.

Mr. Kerrio: Supplementary: Is the minister aware that there is no question in the minds of the federal environment people that the tests show the levels in Lake Ontario are 10 times the acceptable levels?

LAYOFF OF TEACHERS AT TRAINING SCHOOL

Ms. Sandeman: I have a question of the Minister of Correctional Services. In reference to the question which I asked last week about the apparent unwillingness of the ministry to implement the contract signed by the Provincial Schools Authority with the Federation of Provincial Schools Authorities Teachers—a question which hasn't yet been answered—I'd further like to ask the minister if he could explain why the ministry has not made available advertisements of positions available in the development schools under the Ministry of Education for the teachers in Correctional Services, particularly the teachers at Grandview School who will be without jobs very soon?

Hon. J. R. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I would first like to reply to the questions which were asked earlier by the member for Peterborough (Ms. Sandeman) and the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds).

Mr. Bill Tilden, assistant adviser in education, did not state that the Ministry of Correctional Services would fight implementation of the collective agreement for the teachers. Interpretation of such an agreement is rather the issue, and a structure has been established to help with this interpretation.

The provision for the establishment of a joint relations committee of federation and ministry personnel was established in the collective agreement. The purpose of this was to deal with matters arising out of the agreement. The committee met for the first time on May 27 and then on May 31 and will meet again on June 10 and June 24.

The issue of the federation representing Grandview school teachers during transfer discussions was considered yesterday. There is no clause in the agreement which states that the federation representative may preside directly with a teacher and a ministry official in such discussions.

Mr. Tilden of my ministry was not notified by the Provincial Schools Authority that a federation representative should be involved. Furthermore, no teacher asked Mr. Tilden for this kind of representation in any of the discussions. Therefore, the Ministry of Correctional Services sent out, on May 27, to all the teachers in the ministry, the \$500 retroactive pay due them as a result of the agreement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Keep your private conversations down, please. It's difficult to hear.

Hon. J. R. Smith: This plan was carried out as prearranged co-operatively with the Ministry of Education.

In response to today's question from the hon. member for Peterborough, I must say that we work in full co-operation with the Provincial Schools Authority and I will see to it that all the teachers at Grandview and other schools are made aware of job opportunities within the system.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN FORT ERIE

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. The minister is aware of the high unemployment rate in the town of Fort

Erie which is estimated at about 22 per cent. Is she also aware of the present difficulties Lockheed Aircraft is having in meeting the financial conditions to complete an agreement with the federal government to construct the long-range aircraft, Orion, in Canadian plants, resulting in unemployment in the aircraft industry in Ontario? Will she now, with these present difficulties of high unemployment in Fort Erie, implement a community employment strategy programme for job creation in this municipality?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I think the situation in Fort Erie is indicative of similar situations in the aircraft industry throughout Canada. The impact, I'm sure, is much more severe on an area with the population of the size of Fort Erie. We will be making an announcement, hopefully within the next few days, about the agreement which has been reached with the federal government upon those areas selected for community employment strategy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Mr. McNeil, from the standing resources development committee, reported the following resolution:

Resolved: That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Housing be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977:

Ministry of Housing	
Ministry administration	
programme	\$ 4,641,000
Community planning	
programme	35,102,000
Housing action programme....	60,571,000
Housing development	
programme	347,903,000
Home buyers grant	
programme	23,567,000

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Motions.

Introduction of bills.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Godfrey moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Durham Act, 1973.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Godfrey: This Act involves a change in the geography of the region, sir, and provides that the regional council be reconstituted, that there be a redirection of the supervision of public works and that planning arrangements in the area be changed.

ANSWER TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I wish to table the answer to question 81 standing on the notice paper. (See appendix, page 2827.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Orders of the day.

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wells moved second reading of Bill 87, An Act to amend the Education Act, 1974.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I would have liked about another three minutes to pull my thoughts together. However, I have been through the bill twice—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Could we have some order, please? Could you keep your private conversations down? When we have some order, the hon. member for Port Arthur can proceed.

Mr. Foulds: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I profoundly appreciate that.

It is difficult to oppose a bill such as this because it is truly a grab-bag bill.

Mr. Roy: I'm sure you'll find a way.

Mr. Foulds: However, there are a number of individual clauses in the bill that give our caucus considerable concern.

Mr. Peterson: And a sense of déjà vu.

Mr. Foulds: Some time ago in this House, when we were debating what is now called the Education Act, 1974, I remember arguing that what was wrong with the bill at that time was what was not in it; it was simply a consolidation. That was the argument the minister used throughout to avoid debating education in principle and to avoid debating where education was going in 1974. The very same thing applies to this bill.

This bill is the first series of substantial amendments to the Education Act, 1974, and it covers a whole range of topics from French-language instruction to French immersion

programmes, and the very real distinction between those two.

It has two very controversial and, I would say, political thrusts—those that the minister underlined when he introduced the bill; that is, putting into a trust fund the moneys that a board saves as a result of an employee strike so that in some way that money is seen as a rebate to the taxpayer. In fact, that doesn't happen and it won't happen. The minister has created in the bill a kind of bureaucratic process to make it look as if that happens, but it doesn't really accomplish anything substantial around the whole question that the minister is trying to tackle there. It deals with the question of charging fees to foreign students. I have some very considerable reservations about that because it makes the charging of those fees mandatory by the board, whereas there is already a section or an amendment that gives the board that discretionary power should it wish to do so.

[3:00]

It seems to me this hardline approach is simply playing into the hands of an anti-immigrant reaction that is unnecessary and unhealthy in our society today. There are arguments to be made on both sides of that question, I know, and we shall be putting those arguments in the clause-by-clause debate. The most important thing about this bill is that we have a thorough and detailed debate during the committee or clause-by-clause stage and I don't think any of the members of the Legislature should underestimate the amount of scrutiny and the amount of time that the bill may take in committee.

We do not intend, and I want to say this very clearly, to be obstructionists, but we have thoroughly gone through the bill. Like all bills that are entitled housekeeping, unless very straight and definitive answers are given, there can always be a hooker in one of the clauses, as there was when the then Minister of Education, the Premier (Mr. Davis) brought in as a housekeeping amendment the whole range of powers that gave him the authority to impose ceilings. I suspect that there are one or two in this bill.

There are, for example, some things in the bill that not only should we in this House encourage and approve of but which I would like to see taken a step further. There is a reference and a section to improving—I think it's the transportation conditions for some handicapped children. That's one small step. What we should have in this bill is a principle guaranteeing universal access to all handi-

capped children of compulsory school age, whether that handicap is physical or mental retardation or whether it's that grab-bag that is now entitled learning disability.

There are some questions that arise in the bill that have to do with the structure of Indian representation on some school boards. We intend to question very vigorously that section so that we can get satisfactory answers to the questions that we outline. I think the bill is an omnibus bill, not a housekeeping bill; that is, it is a bill that does introduce some genuine changes in the Education Act of 1974. It doesn't just clean it up. There are only three sections that do that. The others are genuine changes and are changes that are indicative of the sort of condition of education in 1976.

It's like the game of may I that we used to play, as I'm sure you did Mr. Speaker, and as I did as a child. May I take one step forward? May I take two steps sideways? You may take one giant step in these directions. I think what we have in this bill is about four or five tiny steps forward, a couple of giant steps backward, and two or three political shuffle steps to the side, giving great indication of movement and motion, but nothing advancing.

Mr. Ferris: My initial comment on the bill is that I don't think that there's any justification for opposing it, as the member from the NDP has stated. It is consolidation, and housekeeping, and an omnibus all put together.

There are probably a couple of thrusts that I might add some concern in, and that would be in the general direction that, once again, we're probably putting too many things into, quote, "regulations." And regulations are, unfortunately, one of those things that we don't see until after the legislation has been passed. If we, in fact, knew what the regulations were going to be, it might be easier to discuss some of these things.

For one point, on the French language position, as was mentioned, I have incurred the wrath of some of the local taxpayers in connection with that. While I have some concerns about the abilities to provide adequately for these kinds of problems, I think it is probably going to cause considerable concern to the boards that become involved, because there will undoubtedly be fairly heavy local pressure in a great many areas. I do think the bill does, though, at least clarify where the distinction is as to what an immersion school is, so they do not have to hide behind the clauses of the French lan-

guage portion of the bill, or of the Education Act.

The comments generally that we'll make should be made during the clause-by-clause, and they're more for clarification as we go to the individual items. I think the minister at that time could properly address them, rather than in a general statement now.

Mr. Renwick: I want to lend my small voice to a profound objection, which I personally have. It is shared by our caucus, but I'm speaking in a very personal sense about the direction which the government of the Province of Ontario is taking on the whole question for fees for foreign students.

We listened in the assembly on May 4 to a lengthy statement by the minister's colleague, the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Parrott), about the policy of the government of the Province of Ontario with respect to very substantial increases in the fees to be paid by foreign students without any classificatory system of need or purpose, or any other indication of the criteria upon which that imposition was to be made.

At a later date, but only in response to a question raised by the member for Wellington South (Mr. Worton), and supplementary questions by other members, the Minister of Colleges and Universities on May 13 made a supplementary statement indicating that the Province of Ontario has no programmes and no participation in any educational programme to assist in worthy situations the education in the universities and colleges of the Province of Ontario of foreign students.

Now we find an omnibus bill dealing with amendments to the Education Act. And the minister, in his opening remarks, says that he's now going to take away what at the present time is a discretion—a very clear discretion—in the individual boards, and he's going to make it obligatory that the boards throughout the Province of Ontario impose the maximum, or whatever the gross fee established by the regulations is, on foreign students other than exchange students after those who are presently enrolled in the system.

I can't understand what the government is about. I don't know whether they're creating some form of "Fortress Ontario." I don't know whether they're implementing in their own way their joint legislative authority over immigration with the federal government so it's aiding and abetting the federal policy of the Liberal Party to impose very stringent concertina-like obstacles to persons coming to this country.

I can't understand this, and I have not heard in the area in which my riding is situated, any objection whatsoever by any of the boards, or any of the wards to persons who are foreign students and in many of the areas of the city of Toronto, the board of education in Toronto doesn't mind picking up the fees. The minister's indication is that there is a growing concern among the residents of the Province of Ontario of the cost of assistance to students entering our system legitimately under visas under the Immigration Act and leaving aside the exchange provision.

Surely the time has passed when a province such as the Province of Ontario can only deal on a quid pro quo basis on an exchange basis to assist persons who are legitimately in the country as students, particularly in the primary and secondary schools of the province.

I simply want to say to the minister that I think it is a very retrograde, very petty, very small-minded attitude on the part of the minister and I, for one, have a very deep and profound personal objection to the removal of the discretion from the boards and whatever the motivations of the minister may be, the feeling that he as the minister must lay down the fiat that regardless of the legitimacy of the person's need in every case the foreign student must pay the gross amount.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I thought I should make a few comments about certain aspects of this bill which are of particular interest not only to myself, I am sure, but to all members and to all students and parents across the province. I think there are certain aspects of this bill which certainly are of interest and which can have some long-term consequences.

I would like, first of all, to address myself to the question of certain clauses in the opening part of the bill dealing with permitting the establishment for English speaking pupils of programmes involving the use of French, which basically are French immersion courses.

I would like to say very bluntly to the minister that we can pass all the legislation we want here but it is not going to do much good to anyone unless we have funds. We require funds and there has got to be a position taken, not only by this government, but with the help of the federal government, but this government has a certain amount of responsibility.

This minister has, over a number of years, as Minister of Education, shown a certain amount of interest, a certain amount of sym-

pathy and a certain amount of understanding. I give him full marks for that. This minister seemed to have in-depth knowledge of his ministry, in-depth knowledge of the problems across the province, and in fact it is no secret that people from various areas of the province discussing certain aspects of education—be it immersion or French language education for French-speaking pupils—have found that this minister was receptive and has understood the problem. But I say to you, Mr. Speaker, there has been far too much procrastination in two areas.

First of all, for French language education for French speaking students, it was fine when there were sufficient numbers of French-speaking students so that the French Canadians were a sufficient proportion of the population in one local area—for instance, Ottawa and Sudbury—there was no problem. Where the real crunch comes in is in the area where the minority is too small and sometimes there is a backlash created in the community. We have seen, unfortunately, some disputes in those communities, and I mention Sturgeon Falls and Cornwall as two examples, and I could go on.

I say this is where there has been a lack of leadership on the part of the government and where there has been a lack of intestinal fortitude to come down hard in those areas. I don't mean to say that overnight, in one fell swoop, you just pass legislation saying you are going to have a French school. I don't think you can do that, but I think we have passed legislation here which really had no power, no teeth in it, which in certain areas of the province has not been of any use at all. So I say in that area we require more leadership.

[3:15]

The other aspect of this bill is the French immersion programme, or French language education for English-speaking students. This is not a recent problem. I think I have said this 15 times in this House, if one reads the last part of the report of Tom Symons, the Symons report of 1971-1972. In such an eloquent fashion he stated the deficiencies in French-language education for English-speaking students in this province. It was a small wonder that the country was still together considering the type of French being taught at that time. It was uninteresting; it was taught like a dead language. Very often French was taught by teachers who couldn't even understand French themselves and I could go on and on.

He felt it was an important problem and that a commission should be set up to look

at the inadequacy of this type of education for English-speaking students across the province. It took this government about two years to set up the commission which he said should have been set up right away. Once the commission was set up, of course, it then took a while to get a report but finally we have a report. The commission members have made certain recommendations and basically the recommendations are what everybody knew anyway—that that type of education in this province was not adequate—and suggesting ways to remedy the inadequacies of that type of education. But, really, nothing much has been done.

What is most frustrating is to see how well the programme has worked in the Ottawa area where the federal government has given funds. It has tried it in the Ottawa area and the programme has been so successful that there is universal acclaim and a lot of press. For instance, Keith Spicer looked at the programme and said more emphasis should be put on education at that level rather than the feds spending their money and trying to educate or Frenchise or to bilingualize, I suppose, civil servants who are 40 and 50 years of age. He said there were tremendous costs at that level and the effects of it, the total results, were really completely inadequate in relationship to the cost.

The programme and the experiment in Ottawa has been tremendously successful but I say it's patently unfair to other students across this province who don't have that same opportunity. Civil servants working at the federal level or in federal agencies should not be limited; their source should not only be Ottawa. All people across this province should be afforded that opportunity. I know there are funds involved—sure there's money involved—but parents who have wanted to give their children this type of opportunity have been frustrated because we have had report after report and then we are going to study it some more. The minister says "We have to look at the cost and we would like to set it up;" but there is this frustration that we spend too much time studying the thing.

It seems to me that the experiment has gone forth in Ottawa. It has been successful so let's get on with it. I know it will require funds and I know that the priorities of this minister and the Treasurer may not be the same but I say this is an important aspect of full education in this province.

It's something that is going to require leadership and you are not going to get overwhelming support overnight from everybody in the province. You are probably going to

lose votes in some areas in proposing this type of programme—but it's there; it has worked and I say that the future of this country is dependent on it. I say to the minister that we can pass legislation and that's great—we are going to support it and all of this—but without the funds to back up this type of programme, we are just talking and unfortunately we have been doing too much talking.

There has not been sufficient action and there have not been sufficient programmes, especially for students in other parts of the province than Ottawa. I tell members that once the programme has been established and once the English-speaking parents have given their children that opportunity, there is resentment when there is talk of cancelling the programme after the success has been so overwhelming. They tried it in Ottawa—there was talk of it in Ottawa—I tell members, if they want to see spontaneous reaction to the withdrawal of a programme, they should come to Ottawa, to some of those meetings, and listen to the parents. I say that the support is there.

The evidence is there but it's not fair to English-speaking students in parts of this province apart from Ottawa. I say we require leadership and it is in the minister's hands. It is up to him to get tough and talk with the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough). I am convinced it is not all that easy but the fact remains that I think it's pretty important. It's pretty important and I say to him just lay the cards on the table—the funds are there; the federal government will pay, I think, 50 per cent of it. Is it 50 per cent of it?

Mr. Moffatt: That was yesterday.

Mr. Roy: They won't? I read a statement the other day that they would pay 50 per cent of it. There seems to be again a lack of communication there.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You read that in the Ottawa Citizen.

Mr. Roy: It seemed to come from the minister, even if it was in the Ottawa Citizen. We're looking at reports in the newspaper all the time. Maybe it's not so. Maybe the minister can tell us what they are.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Special projects.

Mr. Roy: Where are the special projects, apart from Ottawa? I think the minister has

got to get a bit more hard-nosed in that area.

The other point I wanted to talk about just briefly is that I've had complaints—and part of this legislation talked about this—about what they call teaching materials in French-language education and in the French-language schools in this province and in the French-language boards. I've received an awful lot of complaints that they have difficulty in relation to funds and having adequate learning materials. Possibly we could get a few comments from the minister at the time that we discuss the respective legislation on what the problem really is.

I can recall—and this was three or four years ago—having discussions with the trustees about the difficulty. I think you can understand, Mr. Speaker, that in North America it's easier to get hold of English-speaking teaching material than it is French-speaking teaching material. Again, there's a lack of funds. If we're going to teach French, we've got to teach it completely and adequately and it's going to be tough if we don't have the proper materials. This is one area that is lacking.

The final thing I want to say is to echo the comments of my colleague from London South (Mr. Ferris) when he mentioned that he's concerned that sometimes more and more powers are being transferred by way of regulations. I suppose if I repeat myself 50 times on this I'll never say it often enough. One of the problems with government is that, as more and more powers are transferred by way of regulation, there is very little opportunity for public scrutiny of regulations. On this side and in the opposition the only time we ever find out about regulations or the effect of regulations is when somebody is hurt, somebody suffers unduly, somebody who feels that his rights are being in some ways prejudiced by legislation which we never heard about.

I could go on, but one only has to look at the tremendous amount of regulations. Just look at the Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1970, and see how many more regulations there are than legislation. I personally feel sometimes that legislation even in here doesn't receive adequate scrutiny, never mind regulations which we never see.

It comes back to our point; that phoney committee that's set up called the regulations committee, as we've said for the past five years is a waste of time. That committee never gives any regulations any scrutiny.

I'm told we now have the chairman of it; so we'll probably try to make it work for a change.

Mr. Moffatt: That sounds like a flip-flop.

Mr. Roy: That's not a flip-flop at all. It's obvious that with the calibre of chairmanship and leadership emanating from this caucus that it will obviously work. But I say, even if we had 10 regulations committees they wouldn't be enough to look at all the regulations that have been passed and have received no scrutiny for all these years.

It's always one of our concerns that we are transferring power or giving power through legislation to be enacted by way of regulations which sometimes do not receive what we consider to be adequate scrutiny.

These are a few of the comments and the concerns that we have about this legislation, and, hopefully, we'll get some answers and some comments from the minister.

Mr. Moffatt: I'd like to agree with some of the remarks made by the previous speaker, particularly those in which he discussed the impact of French immersion. I want to address my comments to that particular section of the Act because it seems to me that what is finally being done is that some credence is being given to French immersion as a process, and we may well get to consideration of the entire business of the money which we have wasted in this province over the past several years in providing French classes of some other nature.

It seems to me that what has happened with the money provided to teach French is that school boards have been led into the trap of providing a teacher who will circulate among various classes, eight, nine or 10 classes a day, and give each child a 20-minute exposure to something called oral French; at the end of that oral French period any connection between the child and the learning of French is ended and immediately forgotten.

It seems that in order for a board to run a French programme, if they do that, each child who gets 20 minutes of French per day counts as a full instruction cost, for which the grant is supplied. What happens, in fact, is that a school board can make a bit of money by running that kind of programme, because they can programme about 300 children a day through that sort of thing; whereas if they run a French immersion class, they only get the per pupil grant per day for the number of pupils they might have in a French immersion programme.

In my own municipality a French immersion programme has been established for the past couple of years. They started it in kindergarten, they extended it to grade 1, they opened another kindergarten, and then another one; it is optional, and the people are taking advantage of it. But, as was pointed out by the member for Ottawa East, if those programmes are taken away or changed in some fashion, the parents are immediately upset. That's the case in my riding right now.

The board has no choice. They can't run the thing at a loss, because everything else is going up in price. They are really running into difficulty on that score. The board is forced to go to the poorer method, which involves the shotgun approach of teaching French to 300 pupils for 20 minutes a day, for which they get one teacher. As for the immersion programme, what has happened is that the board has set a minimum class size of 24 in its grade 1 class for next year. That is because if they don't do that, they are going to wind up not having any programme at all; they won't be able to afford to keep the teacher on. That certainly seems to be working counter to the kind of pronouncements the minister and his officials are making and have made over the past several years.

When we get into this particular section, I hope the minister can respond to the remarks of the previous speakers and myself by giving us some kind of indication of the kind of programme we are going to see from his ministry in putting French immersion into a kind of viable formula which will enable it to continue and to be an operative way to teach French in Ontario. I don't think any person who has been involved with that kind of programme would find that there is any comparison between the 20-minute-a-day programme and the French immersion programme. It just does not make sense that we encourage the poorer kind of teaching that we get in one programme, as opposed to the immersion programme.

I also want to ask—and perhaps the minister can respond—about a change in this Act which makes the calculation of the ADE a function of the regulations and removes it from the Act. I wonder if that means we are not going to have any way of finding out how grants are going to be calculated for those boards in the future. While that seems to be a good bookkeeping or housekeeping move, it looks to me as though it is going to be one of those areas, such as the ceilings at one time, where all of a sudden some information we have had is not going to be available to us. I think that is a very important

thing for us to watch. I suspect the minister may not even have wanted that himself; it may have been collected and put in here.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I put it in.

Mr. Foulds: No, he put it in all right.

Mr. Moffatt: I won't get into the centralist as opposed to—well, I won't go into that.
[3:30]

Section 8 of this particular Act is also one of the areas where a tremendous hidden cost can accrue to a school board if the changes to section 8 of the Training Schools Act changes are ever proclaimed and the people who are now wards of various institutions wind up being in a school for some length of time and then being removed from a school. I've had some boards express to me the fact that that makes it very difficult for those people to calculate the amount of grant they would have as they have a sort of floating student population. From the way the grants have been calculated in the past, if you have a high enrolment on a given day, you may wind up making a dollar on your enrolment. If your enrolment is a way down and you get an influx for a month or two, this may be a problem. I hope that the minister can clarify just what will happen and what is the costing involved in those two parts under section 8 of this particular Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does any other member wish to get involved?

Mr. Warner: Perhaps because my expectations are a little higher than those of the government, perhaps because in some sense I demand a little higher standard for a lot of things, I cannot find in here a real principle to hang my hat on. I'm very disappointed by the legislation I see in front of me. Quite frankly, I would like to say to the minister that I would appreciate it if he just withdrew it and started over again. There are a lot of things missing from here.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You don't understand how it works.

Mr. Warner: There are more things about it that it is not than that which it is.

Mr. Ferris: It is not an education bill.

Mr. Warner: I'm particularly concerned with first, the comments that were made by the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) about French immersion. He is right on. Similar comments were made by the member for Durham East (Mr. Moffatt). What's in here is not really a statement of principle about bi-

lingualism in the Province of Ontario. Unless I'm mistaken I don't think that I have seen that anywhere in the Education Act. It is about time the government made a statement. It certainly isn't included here.

The government missed a golden opportunity in my view when it began to deal with special education students by not finally and for once saying that every child in the Province of Ontario who is of school age shall be guaranteed an education suitable to his or her needs. That principle isn't stated in here and I think it should be. It may be a little radical but it's what I want to see in here. In particular, the minister is well aware that mentally retarded children still do not have the guarantee of an education to meet their needs.

Mr. Foulds: It is positively shameful.

Mr. Warner: It is shameful.

The other principle that isn't stated in here, and one which the minister alluded to in dealing with the fees to foreign students, is how does he view those students from other countries? There is no principle in here that says he is going to protect the educational opportunities for those students. If he's going to be consistent, then he will be presenting this material without any information or background, because that's what the Minister of Colleges and Universities did.

He couldn't give us information as to the exact cost involved for students from other countries who are attending post-secondary institutions and he didn't bother to ask for advice on it from his advisory council. Maybe this minister is being consistent with that; I don't know. At any rate, I'm disappointed that there isn't a principle involved here at all in that regard.

The minister knows full well that many boards, including the Scarborough Board of Education, have in fact been levying fees where they have seen fit to do so. As far as they're concerned, everything is working fine. They have the ability to do that and they're doing so when they see fit. The minister doesn't need to make it obligatory for every board in this province.

Perhaps what the government really should be saying is that it will enter into an agreement with the federal government or will take the burden upon its own shoulders to make financial arrangements with each individual board, when requested, to supplement the amounts of money that are needed when a foreign student is enrolled in the school. That would be a statement of principle but it's not here in this bill.

In summary, I'm very disappointed with what I see in front of me. I think the government had an opportunity to present some statements of principle and some changes in the Education Act that would be of benefit to a lot of people in this province, including every child who comes under the heading of "special education", but the government hasn't firmly grasped that opportunity and done something with it.

In the face of a very weak piece of legislation, I am forced to do nothing else but vote against it, and I would hope that in the meantime the minister could reconsider and perhaps put a little force behind some of the thoughts that are in here and actually produce some principles that we can all grasp onto and firmly support.

If he's willing to do that, if he's willing to come back with some of the things that I've already mentioned with respect to special education students, or foreign students, or French immersion programmes, I'd be quite happy to reconsider my position. Right now I'm not satisfied at all with what I've seen and I must oppose it.

Mr. Sweeney: Just a question of clarification on the remarks that were just expressed. It is my understanding that this bill is an amendment to the existing Education Act, and that the particular sections of it are the minister's intention as far as changing the existing Act is concerned. If any of us wishes to change some other section of the Act, I don't believe we have power to do so under this bill. Could someone please clarify that for me?

Mr. Foulds: Just those sections he has decided to amend.

Mr. Sweeney: That's what I'm asking for. In other words, if there is a reference to some other section of the Act that is not included in any one of these amendments, no one in this Legislature has the right to introduce them. Is that correct?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That's correct.

Mr. Deans: I want to make just a couple of comments about the bill, particularly that section dealing with the obligation which will now fall on boards to charge persons from out of the country who come in and who may, for one or another reason, want to attend a school within the jurisdiction in which they're living.

It seems to me that the existing legislation quite adequately deals with the matter. The discretion that is given to the board to take

into consideration any number of factors in determining whether or not it ought to charge, or what amount it ought to charge, is the kind of legislation which I think this House should be supporting rather than undermining. I would have thought that we would be saying to trustees that's a responsibility that you have to look at each individual case on its merit, to make judgements as to whether or not that individual person can afford to pay the entire shot, whether they should be in attendance at school for whatever reason, then to make some calculation as to what, if anything, can be undertaken by them.

I think also, and perhaps more important from my point of view, for the purposes of equity, for the purposes of not overburdening the municipal taxpayer—and we have done that over the years and we're doing it even more today than before, because of the reductions in the percentage that the Ministry of Education and the provincial government are now assuming over and against the total cost of education—for the purposes of providing some equity, if it is the decision of the federal Immigration department and the provincial ministry, or both together, that an individual entering the country should be entitled to come in here for the purposes of educating him or herself further, taking advantage of the excellent system that we have, then the province and the federal government should be prepared to assume a substantial portion of the cost.

If the federal government is of a mind to have the city of Hamilton, for example, provide from within its educational system an education for some child or some young person coming in from some other country in the world, then of course that federal government ought to be participating more fully in the funding of the total educational programme, but particularly participating in the funding for that individual person.

I think the minister is moving in the wrong direction. I don't think that it satisfies any of the objectives. Why would we be requiring a municipal board of education, which may well have decided on the merit of the case, that one, two, three or more individuals coming in within their jurisdiction should, for whatever reason, be afforded the opportunity to study within the system, but recognizing all of their background and capacities to pay, are unable to make the necessary payment—why should we deprive them of the right to make that kind of a decision at the local level? Why do we have to assume that from Queen's Park must flow all of the direction, all of the legislation?

I've a feeling that what will happen in the long run is that the only people who will be able to come into this country and take advantage of the educational system, for our benefit and for their benefit, will be those who are of substantial means—those who may well have substantial financial backing in their own country. Others, by virtue of a family or a relative in the country, may be able to be brought here on a temporary basis to benefit both us and themselves, because we benefit from their attendance just as much as they would. But those people who perhaps don't have a substantial financial backing in their own country, and whose relatives here may be ordinary working people paying their taxes as all of us pay our taxes, those people may well be deprived of the opportunity to study English, for example, in the school system.

So, I say to you, Mr. Speaker, I don't see it as very good legislation. Perhaps I understand what motivates the minister; I'm not sure about that. It may be that he thinks that the municipal taxpayer is paying as much as he or she can reasonably carry within the present property tax base. But if that be the case, then let us, from the overall tax base of the Province of Ontario, assume a larger portion of the responsibility. Let's make representation to Ottawa to ask that they assume some share of the responsibility for the educating of those people. But let's not deprive the poorer—not necessarily the very poor, but the poorer—of those in the world who might like to come to Canada and visit for a short period of time, and at the same time take advantage of our excellent educational system to further their knowledge of the world and improve their English, or whatever. Let's not make the burden so onerous on them individually that they will not be able to come. Because, while they will lack in the opportunity to benefit, we too as citizens won't benefit from the knowledge that they will bring with them and bring into this system.

I don't think we have to be quite as rigid as the minister is being in this legislation. I think if the minister leaves it up to the discretion of the local board, if he agrees to assume a greater proportion of the overall cost on behalf of this person, if he makes his argument with Ottawa that they should, on balance, be prepared to accept some of the responsibility financially for the people who are coming in under their authority, then I think we would have fulfilled our obligation in that regard.

I urge the minister to give that some serious consideration, because I'm not at all satisfied that what he is now doing is in their best

interests. But more importantly, I'm not at all satisfied that what he is now doing is necessarily in our best interests either.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I don't intend to make many comments, or maybe even any comments on the bill, seeing that the bill will be referred to the committee of the whole House. I think it would be better at that time to speak to individual portions of the bill and amendments made, if necessary. I understand that any legislation in the House would always have to be amended, and we're looking forward to the discussion of the bill in the committee of the whole House.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased today that my friend from Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner) and the rest of the official opposition have seen fit to oppose this bill. I was beginning to think that perhaps I was turning a little socialistic, because they support so many of the things that this government does, and I certainly am not socialistic. I'm socially conscious, but not socialistic—

Mr. Deans: We are not talking about socialism.

Mr. Warner: This is disappointing.

Hon. Mr. Wells: With the kind of baloney that he was saying, I think it's fitting that the member for Kitchener-Wilmot at least drew to his attention that the rules of this House—and the elementary rules of legislation and civics in government in this province, if he knew them—concern debating what's in the bill, not what's not in the bill—and he'll have lots of chances to do that when we get to the estimates.

Mr. Warner: Everything I spoke to was in the bill.

Mr. Foulds: You will find it in the bill.

Mr. Warner: Everything is there—do you want me to read the section?

[3:45]

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me first make some comments about the proposal concerning foreign students. There is a real attempt on the part of the official opposition to twist this around and make it look as though we are against immigrants—

Mr. Deans: No.

Hon. Mr. Wells: What do you mean, no? You are talking about the sons and daughters of relatives here. Those members are trying

to make it look as though we are somehow inhuman, not interested in the educational opportunities for these people—

Mr. Foulds: That's true.

Mr. Deans: I think you are a little sensitive, my friend.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —but let me tell the member he hit it right on the head. We are concerned about the municipal taxpayer.

Mr. Deans: That's right, of course you are. If you are concerned, why did you use the percentage?

Hon. Mr. Wells: At this point in time, there is no reason any municipal taxpayer in this province should have to pay out of his property tax share for a person who is here in this country as a foreign student, purely and simply for education, in the elementary or secondary schools of this province, who then returns to his country.

Mr. Renwick: Let them decide it.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I agree completely that the federal government, if it wishes, can make resources available for these people. That's the channel. That's where the money should come from.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We talked to the federal government. We have invited it—and that's the way we have invited it—to offer financial help in the elementary, secondary and university fields. If this country of Canada, through the federal government which is responsible for external affairs, wishes to make help available to students as part of our foreign assistance programme through providing and paying for their fees in our educational institutions, that's the way it should be done, not by devious routes like the municipal taxpayer being asked to pay for foreign students who are in the schools of Hamilton or Toronto or Ottawa or London.

Mr. Deans: Why?

Mr. Renwick: Why?

Hon. Mr. Wells: We believe that discretionary right should be removed—

Mr. Renwick: Why?

Mr. Deans: Why?

Hon. Mr. Wells: —in order that the people, both the provincial taxpayers and the municipal taxpayers of this province are not paying

for students here on student visas in the schools of this province.

I know I will never get through to the opposition on that particular point, but it's very clear to me and it's very clear to our caucus. It is very clear and I think it's a point which is well supported.

Mr. Deans: Yes, it is clear.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is a point which is very well supported.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: It is politically popular.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is not necessarily politically popular but it's politically right and it is morally right.

Mr. Deans: It is morally wrong.

Mr. Renwick: It is politically wrong and morally wrong and you know it.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is morally right. To some degree it is also closing a loophole which now exists and which makes it very difficult for boards which wish to collect that fee and are now being deprived of it because of certain loopholes. This now makes it mandatory for them to collect the gross fee.

Mr. Renwick: You could fix that problem.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I don't know whether my friend even knows how many students are involved. There are probably between 4,000 and 5,000 foreign students in this country at the present time taking elementary or secondary education.

Mr. Makarchuk: How many are in private schools?

Hon. Mr. Wells: About 80 per cent are in private schools. They are paying the full tuition fees so why shouldn't the rest pay the full tuition fees?

Mr. Renwick: Because they have come for the public school system.

Hon. Mr. Wells: If my friend knew, a lot of them come over here, see they have to pay a very high fee in the private schools and that it's possible to get education completely free in the public schools of this province, paid for by the taxpayers of this province. They switch out of the private schools into the public schools.

Mr. Foulds: How many cases?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. members have had an opportunity to express their views on second reading and they will have another opportunity during committee.

Hon. Mr. Wells: There are about 1,000 such students in the public schools of this province. I think as a matter of principle—as I say, the opposition will never understand why we are doing it—but as a matter of principle, I think it should be done and if they want to stand up and vote against it, they are welcome to stand up and vote against it.

Let me continue. I am sure we will have an opportunity in committee to talk further about it and perhaps I can give members some more statistics. I want to make it very clear that this applies only to those people who are here on student visas, which generally they get in their home countries before they come to Canada, naming an educational institution they will attend in this country. They intend to return to the country from whence they came after they have had their education. It in no way affects immigrants to this country; it in no way affects new Canadians. It in no way affects students here on educational exchanges and it in no way affects the sons and daughters of diplomats or business people who come here for short lengths of time or varying lengths of time. It affects solely and only students here on students' visas, and as far as I'm concerned, Mr. Speaker, it's a logical thing to do and that's why it's in these Education Act amendments.

In regard to the matter of French language programmes, this section is being put into this Act to really mandate what is already happening in a number of boards across this province. It gives boards the authority to undertake French immersion programmes and it differentiates between immersion programmes for Anglophones and the French language education section. It has come to our attention that actually boards were operating under the French language sections of the Act to really get their mandate to establish immersion programmes for Anglophones. This is plainly, purely and simply giving those boards that are now carrying out programmes the authority to operate English immersion programmes and also telling any other boards that it will perhaps lead them to get into this type of programme.

The whole matter of grants is being sorted out and perhaps I can deal with that in a more detailed way when we get into the

committee discussion. Let me say at this point in time there are inconsistencies in the grants, I agree. The member for Durham East (Mr. Moffatt) indicated one of the inconsistencies. You can get as much extra money above the grant ceiling for the 20-minutes-a-day per pupil as you can for a pupil in an immersion programme. That isn't equitable and that will be corrected next year.

At the same time, we want to have the federal government mesh its grants assistance to us with our grant programme. Mr. Faulkner has agreed with me on this and has guaranteed us that his studies which are going on at the present time along with ours hopefully will mesh together and provide a unified approach that will encourage, in the next fiscal year, better arrangements for immersion programmes.

I have to say, however, that we all recognize that immersion programmes are very beneficial for those students who wish to become fluently bilingual, but I think we also have to make it clear that they are not programmes that we should mandate for every student in this province. I think that, given the choice, it's better to have a 20-minute-a-day programme or some better variable that a board can work out in order that students can at least have their appetites whetted about French and the French fact and what it all means about having these two languages and two races in Canada. It's better than having nothing.

Mr. Bain: Twenty minutes will only dampen it.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The 20 minutes will not dampen it because there's no way that we're going to have French immersion programmes for every student in this province. There's no way that's going to happen, certainly not in the time that the member and I are around this Legislature, I can guarantee him that.

We're going to have and what we have to have is French immersion for every student or parent who wishes the student to have it. That's what we have to encourage and that's what we're working toward; but, you see, by degrading the 20-minute programme we're going to get to the point where boards are going to say: "Let's wash that out completely," so that those students who do not take the immersion or the more enriched programmes that will be offered, will get nothing.

I submit that, given the kind of feeling that we're trying to build up in this country, the appreciation of the French fact in Canada, we

need that 20-minute programme even if it doesn't produce anywhere near fluency in French. We need it for that kind of spirit that it will build up in the school system. I think that some members do a disservice by completely running down that programme.

Certainly, we all agree that it's not effective if we are looking for it to produce a fluently bilingual young person. It won't do that, but there are other things that the presence of that programme in a school system can do. I think it's good that the majority of young people in our elementary schools at some point have at least a beginning into French in those programmes.

The school boards are trying to develop those programmes so that they will be more effective, and I'm sure they will. Some of them are grouping them in 40 minutes every second day. There are other variations that are coming about. I think that's good, but I think what we need is every board jurisdiction in this province having immersion French available for those who want it; not mandatory for every student but available for those who want it.

Mr. Deans: Why don't you just legislate?

Hon. Mr. Wells: There are a lot of boards doing it now. They're doing it now within the financial resources they've got. There's nothing that prevents them from doing that. This piece of legislation merely puts into the legislation and highlights for them that it is one of the things that a board can carry out.

Actually there are other matters that were touched upon. There is some other information that I will get for discussions in the committee stages of this bill when we can deal with each of the various subjects in greater details and in greater depth. I think that really there's nothing more I can say in the second reading.

Mr. Warner: On a point of personal privilege, the member for Scarborough North (Mr. Wells) suggested that I either did not understand parliamentary procedures or that I ignored parliamentary procedures. In fact, all of my remarks, if checked with Hansard, would show that I contained my remarks—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I listened to the exchange very carefully. I heard what the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere said, I heard what the hon. minister said and I fail to see any point of privilege in it.

Mr. Warner: Mr. Speaker, the point of privilege is that he was suggesting that I was not adhering—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That has been my ruling. I don't think that your privileges as a member have been encroached upon.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 27, the hon. member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) has given notice to the Chair that he is dissatisfied with the answer given by the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Miller) on May 27 to his question respecting the Towland-Hewitson asphalt plant in Thunder Bay and the cabinet reversal of the Ontario Municipal Board's decision respecting that installation.

Also the member for York Centre (Mr. Stong) has filed notice that he is dissatisfied with the answers given on May 27 and May 31 by the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) to his question concerning the need for schools in German Mills. These matters will be debated at 10:30 and 10:40 tonight respectively.

What is the disposition of Bill 87? Committee of the whole House? So ordered.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Norton, on behalf of Hon. Mr. McKeough, moved second reading of Bill 55, the Regional Municipalities Amendment Act.

Mr. Norton: I might, very briefly, at the opening indicate at the conclusion of second reading I propose to request that this bill go to committee of the whole House. At that time I will propose three motions, one of which will have the effect of correcting a minor typographical error in the legislation. The other two will have the effect, in one case, of removing the proposed provisions with respect to increasing interim levies to 75 per cent and, in the other, of removing the provisions with respect to sections 35a and 35b of the Planning Act.

I thought it would be preferable to mention that at this point so that the hon. members across who have been advised of this would not feel it's necessary to deal with them.

Mr. Breithaupt: There may be some comments on it anyway.

Mr. Norton: There might very well be but it may not be necessary to deal with it to the extent that they might have otherwise intended.

[4:00]

Mr. Renwick: The parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer was good enough in conversation with me yesterday, to indicate that it was the intention of the government to withdraw the controversial sections to which the minister has referred in his statement at the point in time when the matter comes before committee.

May I say that shortly after Bill 5 was introduced in the assembly, as was the case with Bill 54, we in this caucus—through the various members representing constituencies falling within the various regional governments and, in those where we don't have members, the members contiguous to those regional government areas—wrote to each of the chairmen of the regional governments and each of the heads of the area municipalities, asking them if they had any comments with respect to Bill 55.

We immediately found that there was substantial concern, based mainly upon the fact that none of them knew that there was a bill going to be introduced into the assembly dealing with the regional governments and amending various provisions with respect to them and altering, as every such bill does, the relative strengths of the area municipalities as opposed to the central or regional government in the particular area.

I think it is fair to say, whatever the government may have done, and without taking any undue credit for it, that it was that letter from various members of our caucus to each of the various regional governments—

Mr. Breithaupt: Oh, come off it! You weren't even aware of it on second reading.

Mr. Renwick: —that alerted the regional governments and the area municipalities to the existence of the bill, let alone any knowledge about the contents of the bill. As a result of that, and particularly as a result of the letter which was addressed by my colleague, the member for Cambridge (Mr. Davidson), to the regional municipality, we began to get responses in connection with this bill. We then had further communications with other regional governments about the Cambridge response and we found, of course, considerable disenchantment with certain provisions of the bill. We continued to get responses over a period of time, not from every area municipality and not from every regional government, but sufficient to indicate a very real and major concern about the provisions of the bill that the minister has now indicated he's going to withdraw, namely the ones related to the extension of the planning authority of the regional governments within the 150-foot area of the re-

gional road system and with respect to the right of the region to levy 75 per cent of the previous year's amount of levy against the constituent municipalities raising it from 50 per cent.

In any event, we are delighted that those particular provisions are going to be removed from the bill, because it shows that there obviously was merit in the concern about the lack of consultation that had taken place and the implications of it. But we in this caucus want to put very clearly to the parliamentary assistant, and through him to the minister, our very great concern that there had been no adequate consultation. I think it is fair to say that one of the resolutions, which we received just within the last couple of days from the corporation of the town of Stoney Creek, accurately reflects the concern felt throughout the regional governments in the Province of Ontario about the inability of this government to understand what consultation means.

I want to read this resolution, which was passed by the council of the town of Stoney Creek on May 25, because it does reflect our impression of the feelings of the regional governments throughout Ontario about this very question.

Whereas Bill 55, the Regional Municipalities Amendment Act, contains provisions of great importance and concern to the area municipalities which constitute the regions; and whereas the government of Ontario has not consulted with the municipalities concerning the desirability or equity of the proposed amendments;

and whereas this council would not have been aware of the proposed amendments if it had not been so advised by a member of the opposition;

and whereas the government of Ontario has been urged frequently and earnestly by municipalities and municipal associations in the province to establish clear and adequate procedures for the review by municipalities of legislative purposes which affect them;

now therefore be it resolved that the council of the town of Stoney Creek hereby expresses its grave concern that the government of Ontario has not informed this council of its intention to introduce legislation, nor has it asked for comments upon the proposals which will have significant implications for the people of the town and of other municipalities covered by the proposed legislation;

and further, that the council requests the government of Ontario henceforth to con-

sult according to clear and adequate procedures with any and all municipalities and their associations when they will be affected by general or special legislative proposals in order to avoid the passage of unsatisfactory or inequitable legislation.

With the consensus of our caucus that for practical purposes that resolution reflects a dissatisfaction with the government about its failure to consult, we in this caucus decided we would oppose the bill on second reading. I propose to move a hoist motion for that purpose and I now want to deal with the second question.

Having discussed this matter at some length both personally, by telephone and otherwise, through the various members of the caucus, with their colleagues in the regional governments and the municipal governments within those regions, there is every indication from a number of those regional governments and area municipalities within them that if this bill were out to a standing committee there would be significant representations made to that standing committee about the contents of the bill—not just about the failure to consult, although undoubtedly the members of the government at such a standing committee would hear that concern expressed, but in order to deal with the other elements of the bill which are still in the bill. One never can tell during the course of that kind of consultation whether certain items or certain passages in the bill—perhaps not of the same significance as those which the parliamentary assistant has agreed to withdraw—will nevertheless have attention focused upon them in a way in which the government would want to listen to and pay attention to the concerns which are expressed.

There are two or three others left in the bill—perhaps four or five—which will deserve comment when the bill is in committee but we ask—we have no authority to direct—we specifically request that the parliamentary assistant direct that this bill go out to a standing committee in order that representations can be heard from the constituent municipalities within the regional governments and from the regional governments themselves about the contents of the bill and the general always uneasy concern that such bills as this represent shifts in the balance of power between the constituent municipalities and the regional governments.

Therefore, we oppose the second reading of the bill simply to give emphasis to the sense which we have that the government is sadly

in default in failing to consult over the provisions of the bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Renwick moves that Bill 55, being the Regional Municipalities Amendment Act, 1976, be not now read a second time but be read this day four months hence.

Mr. Renwick: That would be Oct. 1.

Mr. Good: Mr. Speaker, it's not my intention to read the various communications which our caucus received and the letters sent out stating that we did, very emphatically, oppose various sections of this bill. The major ones we opposed have now been removed.

But I think that it's important that we put on the record some of the things that are in this bill and, especially, that we clarify for members of the House and the public at large the two sections that we're dealing with in the bill which, subsequently, according to the words of the parliamentary assistant, will be withdrawn. Briefly, I'd like to go through the bill and point out some of the highlights of the various sections.

Most regional bills were drafted so that the minister had power to first divide the various area governments into wards as he saw fit. This power having expired, it can now be done by the Ontario Municipal Board on application of the area government. Only the region of York had authority—under section 13 of the Municipal Act, as I was able to find out—to deal with the setting up of wards in a manner whereby 75 people or more could petition the OMB for a hearing. My colleague from York Centre (Mr. Stong) will have more to say on that particular section of the bill.

I think another change which is worth mentioning is that an auditor, for instance, acting as a consultant in an area government, would not now be disqualified from acting as an auditor for the region. This, I understand, was in most regional government bills originally, and a study of the matter has shown that a conflict of interests would not result.

I am a little concerned, Mr. Speaker, regarding the repeal by the region of area government bylaws on the simple forwarding of a registered letter. As you know, Mr. Speaker, area government bylaws, except certain parking bylaws, require approval of the regional government. That approval can be withdrawn now under this amendment, with the forwarding of a registered letter. I would think either a little more time or some consultation between the two levels of government as to the merits of having the bylaw

remain, or the merits of having it withdrawn, would be more satisfactory.

The most controversial section in the bill, of course, was that relating to the inclusion of powers under 35a and 35b of the Planning Act, that they would be given to the regional government on all lands lying within 150 ft of a regional road.

Many municipalities, including most area governments that I contacted, have not seen fit to use section 35a and 35b of the Planning Act and, consequently, have not passed bylaws designating areas within their municipalities for this use.

Our contention is, in this caucus, that if an area government has not seen fit to impose these restrictions on its own people in its own municipality, the regional government should not be able to come in and superimpose these restrictions along 150 ft of the roadway.

I think that this makes good sense when we look at the provisions of 35a and 35b. In particular, Mr. Speaker, 35a gives very wide powers to the municipality which passes a bylaw and has it approved by the OMB. These powers will permit the municipality to demand development agreements wherever any development, or redevelopment, goes on within a designated area, even though that use is permitted under existing zoning in that section.

I would like to read this section, Mr. Speaker, if I may. I think it gives us all a little better understanding of what is at stake here:

Through the passing of a bylaw under section 35 of the Planning Act and its subsequent approval by the Ontario Municipal Board, a municipality may obtain the power under section 35a to require, in addition to the normal zoning provisions which apply to the land, the provision of additional features such as highway widening, location of off-street parking, grading of land, landscaping features, site plans and other drawings. The bylaw may also require the owner of the land to enter into an agreement to provide the specific features requested by the municipality. Once such agreement has been entered into, it may be registered against the land so that it becomes enforceable upon the owner and all subsequent land owners.

[4:15]

That means that if I own a house properly zoned for a duplex or a triplex and I wish to convert that property, I could not do so if it is lying within 150 ft of a regional road

without a development agreement with the regional municipality.

I am not asking for a zone change; the municipalities already have that power under section 35. Rightly or wrongly, the regional government has that power now. Even though I am properly zoned I am restricted from doing what I want with my property until I have reached a development agreement. When we look at the list of the things that the municipality can require of that property, I would like to list a few criteria for the application of section 35—I am sorry, that's 35b.

The matters that can be imposed on that particular piece of property, if the municipality has a bylaw, would be these:

They could require widening of the highways that abut to the land that is being developed or redeveloped. Then there are transportation requirements that can be imposed. Off-street vehicle parking and loading areas and access driveways, including the surfacing of such areas and driveways. Walkways and all other means of pedestrian access. Removal of snow from access ramps, and the list goes on and on, including flood-lighting, walls, fences and everything, and this is on land which is properly zoned for that particular use.

The point is simply this, if the area government has not seen fit to impose these restrictions on its own people then I say there is no need for the regional government to come in and impose these restrictions as well.

We find that many municipalities did object to this and consequently—although this has not happened as yet—we have word that this particular section of the bill will be withdrawn. That withdrawal promise removes one of our major objections to this particular piece of legislation. The other offensive part of this legislation was in allowing a regional municipality to levy 75 per cent of its last year's taxes as an interim levy before the setting of the mill rate. Presently a municipality may levy 50 per cent. This is done, as we know, usually with one or two interim levies prior to the setting of the mill rate and then the additional levies after.

Good financial practices in municipalities usually dictate two interim levies before the mill rate is set—of 25 per cent each of last year's levy—and two after the mill rate is set. This is now done by the region on the area government and then follows down by the area government on the assessment

within its boundaries or merging municipalities.

I can see no reason for increasing this from 50 per cent to 75 per cent for the following reasons: First of all, I would think it would make for more procrastination and poor budgeting practices when it comes to studying the mill rate. Municipal council and their administrative staff could say, "Well, we can get 75 per cent of our taxes in before we set the mill rate, so why rush into it?" Whoever proposed this must have been away out somewhere without any idea of what the real world is like.

Mr. Roy: Must have been way out there with the Tories.

Mr. Good: In my view the acceleration of taxes is one of the oldest tricks of government, and I say that for every level of government, including the provincial and the federal government. If they can get more money in, live on other people's money, that is the way to operate in this day and age, and government, believe me, has refined this practice to its ultimate.

With regional government accelerating its payments from the area governments, and the area governments collecting 75 per cent from the taxpayers, you know who is going to get hit: the taxpayer, right down on the bottom rung. All the way up, the money comes in faster. I think this could very well have originated from the province itself, which would feel that if the regions can get more money in earlier in the year, they won't be pushing it for their transfer payments from the province and the province will have the pressure taken off it. Perhaps that's how this idea first originated. We are opposed to that.

Mr. Hodgson: You're dreaming, you're dreaming.

Mr. Good: We are glad to see that particular—

Mr. Deans: He's not dreaming, you obviously know it.

Mr. Roy: It's just the type of insidious practice you guys opposite would think up.

Mr. Hodgson: That's a scheme the Liberals would think up.

Mr. Good: We're very happy to see that that section will be withdrawn as well.

There is another very practical application that must be considered here. It's the same

thing that happened back when we had the residential property tax shelter legislation. That is, a large percentage of people pay their taxes with their mortgage payments, and that would mean an acceleration of taxes into the mortgage companies who themselves would accumulate more tax money to pay the taxes at an earlier date. It boggles the imagination to figure out what hardships could result if this section were not withdrawn.

So much on that section. We are glad that that great objection to the bill is going to be withdrawn.

Mr. Roy: Thank God this party is watching what you fellows are doing.

Mr. Good: There are other sections on the temporary borrowing powers for the region when there is money coming at a later date from the Ministry of the Environment for water and sewer works. There are broader powers now given to the municipalities regarding grants to any group that is interested in municipal activities; broadened investment powers for the municipalities for sinking fund moneys, which can now be invested in securities backed by the US government; various other minor provisions dealing with Ottawa-Carleton; a few provisions in the Hamilton bill, and also incidental provisions I feel relate to certain townships such as Glanford, I believe it is, and Markham township, for which I think these municipalities should not have to wait four months.

I think the move to hoist this for four months would create a hardship with certain sections of this bill. We will support the bill, the major objections having been removed, but I think we would be creating some other hardships if we hoisted this bill for four months to be dealt with later. If the parliamentary assistant comes through and puts in these amendments, copies of which he has given us, we will support this bill on second reading.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, the first thing that I would like to do would be to invite the party to the left to support us on the hoist of this bill. I suggest to them that they should, for two or three reasons.

First of all, it doesn't necessarily mean a four-month hoist. If the parliamentary assistant recommends to the minister and he approves of it, it could mean it would be put out of the House very shortly to a standing committee, which could consider this and the matter could be dealt with expeditiously. But it won't come about unless the other

opposition party is prepared to support us in this hoist.

The second reason I suggest they should take this kind of step is for the reason mentioned by my colleague from Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), that there has been a real failure on the part of the provincial government to consult with the municipalities on a very substantial bill. There have been commitments given over the years—I myself was in municipal government for many years—year after year that they were going to consult the municipalities before they brought in any substantive changes. This has not been done in this case and I think there is plenty of evidence to prove that it has not been done.

The third reason for thinking they should support this is that this bill does provide a real thrust in a certain direction. The thrust provided by this bill is, first of all, a thrust away from citizens' rights; and, secondly, a thrust away from the jurisdiction of the local municipalities to a higher level. In support of this contention, I would like to point out that the very first section of the bill—which provides that the Ontario Municipal Board, on application by the municipality, can divide or subdivide a municipality into wards—removes the right of the citizens to petition, which they have in other municipalities. If the municipal council fails to deal with a petition to divide a municipality into wards, the citizens have the right of appeal directly to the Ontario Municipal Board.

This is not provided in here so the bill is taking away that right from the citizens of these municipalities and I suggest this is a right which citizens should have. There are many councils which may have a vested interest in wanting to ensure that the municipality is not divided into wards. Its members may come from one section of the municipality—the populated section—at a given time and they would stand some chance of losing their seats. Therefore, they are reluctant to divide it into wards although, in the best interests of the public, there should be wards within that municipality.

Perhaps it is not the intention of the legislation to take this right away but certainly, from my reading of it, it is taken away. I object to this right being taken away.

The section which the minister is going to withdraw which gives the regional government authority over regional roads, back to a distance of 150 ft, of course, would have transferred more power to the region from the local municipality. This apparently is going to be withdrawn but still it was a thrust of the bill.

It is also proposed in this bill—perhaps not anything new in the sense that it is passing more power to the regional government—to remove the authority of the province or the need for it to approve traffic bylaws within the local municipality. Instead of transferring that power back to the local municipalities themselves to deal with the streets and the highways over which they have complete jurisdiction, it's going to leave it with the region and, I suggest, cause a great deal of conflict there.

There is a general broadening of the powers of regions with regard to making grants, etc. Many of us who have sat on local councils, county councils or regional councils know there is always a tendency to pass up to the higher levels of government requests for grants and payments made out of funds because they won't have to pay the whole thing. One gets this pressure and this trend to move all this up to a higher level of government which, I suggest again, removes much of the accountability from the local municipality and from the people in the local municipality.

For these three reasons I think the motion put forward by the member for Riverdale is very appropriate. I think these principles should be considered by a standing committee of this House and the municipalities and the public should have some input into the decision-making process from here on.

Therefore, I would hope that the other opposition party might reconsider its stand and join us in this vote.

[4:30]

Mr. Breithaupt: I suppose I should first of all disabuse the member for Welland-Thorold of any possibility that we will be supporting the hoist motion and that we will be voting against the bill. We intend to vote for the bill on second reading, now that the two sections of which we have complained are to be withdrawn.

The point I would like to raise particularly is to remind the House that here again we have an example of the inability of this government to bring in legislation after proper consultation with the people who are affected.

This has been a rather embarrassing month for the Conservative government of Ontario. They have had the matter of proper notice dealt with by the courts in the Niagara Escarpment situation. There was the matter of their failure to deal with the people involved in the hospital closings, by the court's recent decision.

Mr. Roy: Shame.

Mr. Breithaupt: At the present time they are arguing the situation with respect to the Anti-Inflation Board of Ontario's involvement in that procedure, which again comes as an embarrassment. And here we have the fourth one, the proposal of legislation under Bill 55, with these two sections, to which my colleague from Waterloo North has referred, and the embarrassment of having to withdraw them now simply because they had no consultation with the people who were involved.

I suggest that is shown as clearly in one item as any other, by a letter which some of us received from the mayor of Cambridge, who wrote as follows:

On Thursday, May 20, a group of regional councillors, representing certain area municipalities within the region of Durham, Hamilton-Wentworth, Niagara, Sudbury and Waterloo, met to discuss implementations of Bill 55 . . .

The group met at Ottawa, they reviewed the bill, and this is what they came up with—and I quote:

1. Concern that an amending Act of this importance to local municipalities within regions of Ontario could have proceeded to this stage without the knowledge of the municipalities so affected;

2. Unalterable opposition to the addition of section 35a and 35b of the Planning Act to the powers of a regional municipality with respect to regional roads;

3. Opposition to the increase from 50 per cent to 75 per cent of the portion of the preceding year's levy that a regional council may levy against an area municipality and that an area municipality may levy against each of its merged areas;

4. A request that we be permitted to present our concerns before a committee of the Legislature prior to its third reading.

Those were the four particular items that Mayor Robert Kerr wrote to us about. He set out in another paragraph a rather interesting approach, the kind of approach that this government invariably and stupidly takes when it attempts to force legislation for the convenience of certain areas without the involvement of the municipalities actually concerned. This is what he says:

No notification was received by any area municipality, except for a cryptic one line under "First Readings" in the Ontario Statutes Cimator for the week ending April 16, 1976. It simply stated: "Regional Municipalities Amendment Act, 1976 (Bill 55)." Certainly there was nothing to indicate the

importance of the bill. The May 7 issue of "Background," issued by the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, under item 3, "Reviewing 1976 Legislation," deals with several aspects of Bill 55; however, this issue was not circulated in Cambridge until May 21, long after Bill 55 was to have been processed.

Mayor Kerr is quite correct. This bill was to have been proceeded with some weeks ago. In fact, unless the correspondence and the response had not been made from, I agree, both opposition parties, in dealing with these particular subjects, the bill might well have been pushed through in the ordinary guise of housekeeping legislation.

It is rather sad that this has been the approach of the government, but I do suggest, in commenting on this debate, that it is important for us to realize that once again we have got the usual kind of embarrassment that seems to be plaguing this ministry and has done so over the last several months.

Certainly, in the initial comments with respect to Bill 54 for the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, we did not approve of this same kind of an approach, and it was agreed that the matter would be discussed further in committee of the whole. That bill, of course, was not proceeded with either; however, we expect that it will be proceeded with as this bill is dealt with in committee.

Certainly the opposition which has been suggested from this group of regional councillors with respect to the second and third items, to which I had referred in the letter of Mayor Kerr, are entirely within the approach that we have taken on this matter. And as a result, because of the deletion of those two sections, we agree with the processing of this bill on second reading in order that these other items may eventually be attended to that are in the bill, and the loss of which would somewhat prejudice the particular communities involved.

We do share the view that was expressed so clearly that the local municipalities were ignored in the presentation of this legislation, and the sense of wonderment which these mayors of middling size cities and councillors on regional council should have when legislation like this has been brought forward completely in their ignorance.

Mr. Speaker, if you're not discussing this kind of legislation with people, such as the mayors of Waterloo or Durham or Niagara or Sudbury, if you're not dealing with the mayor of Cambridge as you try to build in a framework of legislation and dividing duties between the various tiers of govern-

ment, one almost has to ask just with whom are you discussing these matters? And I suppose one would have to be naive to think that it was anyone else except the top level, the regional chairmen, the alternate cabinet within this province, who, as a result, have more input in most of these things than any minister or any member of the Legislature. And this certainly isn't good enough.

I hope that this approach will have been a sufficient embarrassment that the member for Kingston and the Islands won't have to go through this particular situation again. We are prepared to give him one chance, and presumably he will make sure that the municipalities who are involved will have been consulted before this kind of legislation comes before us again.

The matter with respect to the York situation will be dealt with particularly by my colleague from York Centre. I think that at this point I would again simply review our approach, which will be to approve the bill for second reading on the undertaking that these clauses are to be deleted.

The matter with respect to the presentation of the concerns of these municipalities to a committee of the Legislature is something which, of course, should be encouraged at all times in order that we have as good legislation as possible. The two particular things against which regional councillors, or mayors in their own right have objected to are going to be deleted. So it may well be that the other particular things dealt with in this bill will not have to have that kind of input.

But, surely, again we would want to encourage legislation such as this, if it were otherwise to have proceeded with, to have gone before a standing committee of the Legislature. That is the best place to make laws, where you're able to deal not only with the councillors, or mayors in this instance, who are most particularly involved, but also with the senior civil servants and the legal advisers to the ministry who can be spoken to across the table as these various things are discussed and as the particular details which they may not have thought of are ironed out.

That's the best way to make legislation, and it certainly would be the way to proceed if there was any intention on the part of the ministry to, in fact, go ahead with these particular sections.

Mr. Hodgson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak for a few minutes on this bill as far as it pertains to the region of York. There has been a lot of concern created in the region of York. I have visited most of

the councils represented in my riding and there was a lot of concern expressed in regard to the 150 ft that the regions will have control over or be able to regulate.

(This is nothing new in the region of York. When the bill for the region of York came in in 1970, it was part of the bill that there would be control to regulate development within 150 ft.

Mr. Good: Section 35, but not 35a and 35b.

Mr. Hodgson: Prior to that, we used to have the Toronto and York Roads Commission in the region of York and the Toronto and York Roads Commission had the same power through the Highway Improvement Act. To my knowledge and to the knowledge of all those who have been on councils in the region of York this power has never been abused.

I think it is good planning for the future of the region of York. They do have controls to regulate that 150 ft. We are a fast-growing region, next to a large metropolitan area. We don't know whether we'll need four-lane or six-lane highways or what we'll need in the future.

To allow development without being able to regulate and control it in the region of York is wrong. I have to go along with the 150 ft proposed in the bill. I understand now that it has been partially withdrawn.

Mr. Good: No, they will still have that for zoning purposes.

Mr. Hodgson: As a matter of fact, it is only twice as much as the local municipalities have. Most of the local municipalities in the region of York have controls to regulate all development within 75 ft of their township roads.

I'm very happy to see our parliamentary assistant has taken the advice of caucus and has withdrawn the part of the bill on 75 per cent of the levy. I felt very strongly about this.

Mr. Good: You passed it before it came in. That bill was in your caucus before it was given first reading.

Mr. Hodgson: I don't know how it got in. We just look at it after it gets in.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hodgson: As caucus members we look at it after it gets in.

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for York North has the floor.

Mr. Hodgson: I think the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) gave very good reasons why it should be left at the 50 per cent for most of the farming communities, particularly in the area of York and particularly for the agricultural farmers most of whom have gone to cash crop farming. There are a few dairy farmers left who get monthly cheques. The cash crop farmer spends all of his money in the spring to plant his crop and he doesn't get any return until as early as September the following year. I'm very happy that's been withdrawn.

[There is one thing I would like to see in a future bill. I think it's for the good of the region of York and perhaps some other regions. I don't know of any other region which has only one representative from a municipality. In the region of York, we have 16 members of council but there are five municipalities represented only by the mayor, not that the mayor is not capable of representing them but it's impossible for any elected representative to have 100 per cent attendance with all his other duties to perform.]

I would like to see this reviewed so there would be a minimum of two representatives from every municipality in the region of York to the York regional council. Somebody will say it should be representation by population but with a fast-developing municipality to the south I don't know how that can be handled at the present time. I haven't given too much thought to representation by population but I do think that every municipality is entitled to at least two representatives.

With those few remarks I hope the hon. member for Riverdale will rethink his resolution to hoist this bill for four months and let's get on with the legislation. It has a lot of good features and it will benefit the local municipalities as well as the region. Thank you very much.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, it has been said already that we're going to oppose the bill but I want to run down some of the reasons for that. There are some 10 regional municipalities in this and the term usually used for this kind of bill is an omnibus bill. We stick them all in the back of the bus and roll them through. There are also countless local municipalities where people are elected to do a particular job and, in most instances, it involves doing some kind of local business or doing some kind of regional

business. It becomes rather complicated and expensive, as we know, after a while.

[4:45]

I am really confounded as to why the government, with all its civil servants and all its power, can't do simple things like tell people what kind of legislation is going through this House, particularly when that legislation deals directly with how their municipality is governed. Is it so difficult to pick up a phone and call the clerk and explain the Act to him or to mail it to him? Obviously, in this instance, members of the opposition parties, in particular the member for Cambridge (Mr. Davidson), managed to get copies to local councils without any problem. So did I and so did a number of other members of this particular opposition party. It didn't seem to be an expensive process or even anything that was difficult to accomplish yet the government seems unable to accomplish that. It seems to have great difficulty getting that through.

I want to read into the record as well another letter from another mayor of one of these municipalities. This one is from the mayor of Oshawa who hosted the meeting which had representatives from regional governments across the province. By and large, in their resolution they are stating the same thing as was stated in a previous resolution read into the record:

The following resolution was adopted unanimously by elected representatives of local area municipalities in the Province of Ontario at a meeting held in the city of Oshawa in the region of Durham on Thursday, May 20, 1976, to discuss the Regional Municipalities Amendment Act.

The elected representatives in attendance at the meeting wish to make it known that we are very disturbed that the provincial government introduced Bill 55 in the Legislature without first consulting all municipalities within the framework of regional governments in Ontario, particularly when such legislation directly affects the authority of all local area municipalities. We therefore request that in future any future legislation proposed by the provincial government, which affects municipalities within regional government boundaries, be submitted to the respective councils for opinions.

The representation wishes to express its strongest opposition to the extension of planning controls under section 35a and 35b of the Planning Act to the regional

municipalities. We further wish to express our opposition to extension of maximum amounts that can be levied as an interim tax levy as proposed in Bill 55. We urgently request that our committee be permitted to appear before the committee of the provincial government studying Bill 55 prior to its return to the Legislature for third reading.

There seems to be a consensus on that matter. One other point I found very interesting, too, was that this is not the first time the municipalities have asked, in a formal way, to review this legislation. According to the TEIGA publication Background—this is the May 7 issue—the government met on April 13 with the PMLC. That, of course, is the official organization of the municipalities; it is supposedly a liaison committee.

The question was asked directly of the member for Kingston and the Islands. It was Mr. Coolican who requested that the PMLC be advised in advance and said the PMLC will review the legislation and advise. Then the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton) said that a bill to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act and an omnibus bill on regional municipalities had not yet been introduced in the Legislature. It included items primarily as a result of requests from the respective municipalities.

I'm certainly not aware of any formal requests from the municipalities to include this kind of legislation affecting them. I think it has been documented now that at least the mayors of the municipalities, as a group; those people who attended the meeting in Oshawa, which represented most of the municipalities involved, as another group; and thirdly, those people who are on the council of the region of Durham as a formal group had never made that request. Certainly of those three identifiable groups—all distinct and all somewhat different in their own rights but all dealing with the same kind of business—none saw this bill. None of them had the chance to review and make comments on the legislation before it was introduced into the House.

As a matter of fact, although the government might cop out and say, "First, we would like to introduce the bill," even subsequent to the introduction of the bill they haven't seen it, nor have they been given an opportunity, in a formal way, by the government of Ontario to review this legislation.

Yet the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) is always at the PMLC meetings and, in this case, the parliamentary assistant was there as well. I take it that, as they usually do, they said

"Yes. The reason for the PMLC is to establish that liaison between the government of Ontario and those people who work in municipal governments in Ontario and to let you look at legislation and to solicit your opinions in a very formal way."

Sometimes, there are chat sessions which are a bit more informal, but the fact is there is in place in Ontario a formal structure to do that kind of liaison. The government didn't use it and still hasn't used it. Aside from that particular point, even the informal courtesy aspect of informing them, of providing them with a copy of the bill, which is surely not too much to ask, hasn't been done as yet.

In my municipality, either at the city of Oshawa council or at the region of Durham council, they have just not received any correspondence or any telephone calls from the government of Ontario informing them this legislation is before the House; in fact they got it the way the mayor of Cambridge got it, from the sitting member who provided them with copies and took the time and trouble to go and discuss the matter with them.

Of course this is not new in that area. They are quite accustomed to having the government of Ontario function in this way and they are getting quite accustomed to calling emergency meetings; for different purposes, it seems, but it's always the same crowd of people, from the various regions around Ontario, who come together to discuss common problems they are having with the government of Ontario, not the least of which is this problem of trying to communicate or liaise or discuss or inform, or even being shown the courtesy of being told that some legislation pertaining to their municipality is before the House.

I find that an atrocious way to do business in the Province of Ontario and certainly one that doesn't befit this government. This government has been in power a long time. I think it is generally assumed in Ontario that one of its bases is that it is very strong in terms of municipal government. For crying out loud, they are your own people; are you so deaf that you can't even hear their cries?

I recall when I was on the regional council, and the city council in Oshawa, we took some exception to having the regional chairman invited to lunch every once in a while with the Treasurer to have little discussions. Now perhaps that is the basis of the request; but I point out to you that is not a very satisfactory way to run a government, to have informal requests floating back and forth.

There are all kinds of elected people out there; they are quite prepared to make representation to the government, and to have legislation that governs that particular municipality amended on a regular basis. I have participated in that process.

It is difficult to do that. It seems that every time the city of Oshawa, as an example, wants to amend its legislation it gets turned down, and yet when the government wants to do something like this it doesn't even see fit to inform, let alone consult or discuss.

I think the basic reason we want to oppose this bill is that at some point in time this entire process has got to be stopped, without question. This is not the 1890s, you cannot send a group of people to Queen's Park who sit around and decide what will happen all over Ontario, who make phone calls to one particular person who happens to be on a regional council, or perhaps occupies the position of chairman of a regional council, and put that kind of responsibility on his head.

The councils are the place to represent those people; you do them a disservice and you do yourself a disservice when you refuse to even consult, inform—whatever you would like to call that particular process.

I want to finish by saying that one of the things that is very difficult in municipal government is to get the municipalities to act together. As you know there are a number of municipal organizations involved, they have sprung from tradition rather than from clear logic, but nevertheless they are there and they are functioning, they are trying to become effective voices for municipal government in Ontario; they haven't quite achieved that yet, obviously, because the very simple point of having them participate in this kind of legislation has not yet been made.

I want to differentiate between having the Treasurer of Ontario sit in your midst and tell you what he is going to do—or maybe not tell you what he is going to do, just sit there—and try to pass that off as being some kind of consultative process; it's not.

There are formal means available to you; there are very informal means available to you. You seem determined to use none of them, and for the life of me I can't figure out why. It seems to me to be a particularly dumb approach to politics. I don't understand, although perhaps if I stay around here much longer I will understand, why the Tory party of Ontario continues to show that kind of fundamental discourtesy

to its own people. It seems to me ironic that the people you are probably affecting most of all are local Tories sitting on municipal councils.

But they too are getting fed up, and perhaps the malaise that, really the Premier (Mr. Davis) is having difficulty identifying, is that he is turning off his own people. I think he has to learn that lesson at some point in time and it might just as well be now; I am certainly not prepared to support this particular legislation.

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the member for York North (Mr. Hodgson) when he spoke to this bill this afternoon. Although he is gone now, it reminded me a lot of the letter, a copy of which I received this morning, from the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman). This letter represents a snow job, a real snow job, on the people of Ontario, with respect to this bill. May I quote this letter for the record: Over the signature of the Minister of Agriculture and Food it reads:

Under section 82 of the Regional Municipality of York Act the region now has the right to pass bylaws to control land within 150 ft of regional roads but is now asking the additional authority to attach conditions, if deemed necessary, before granting approvals to zoning changes.

I ask the Minister of Agriculture and Food whether sections 35a and 35b of the Planning Act are mere conditions? This letter is to the secretary of the York County Federation of Agriculture and it goes on to say:

In 1973 the Legislature amended the Planning Act to give municipalities the right to impose certain conditions pertaining to zoning of properties adjacent to roads under their jurisdiction. An example of this would be to give approval to the number and size of access to a particular property. In drafting the amendment at that time, the regional government's responsibilities were overlooked. The bill before the Legislature at this time will take care of this oversight.

It certainly will take care of this oversight and it leads me to conclude that that letter represents an attitude which prevails in a party which has been in power for 32 years and has lost all—

Mr. Samis: Thirty-three.

Mr. Stong: —conception of a sense—

Mr. Hodgson: Not while you are around, Al.

Mr. Stong: —responsibility to the voters. It also led to the passing of a resolution by the council of a very forward thinking town in my riding. If I may quote from the resolution passed with respect to Bill 55—I may say I agree with the previous speakers on this bill who indicated that one of the problems is that no one got any notice. In the riding of York Centre and the regional municipality of York it wasn't until I distributed 70 copies of Bill 55 to the local elected representatives that they became aware of this particular bill. As a result of that, the town of Richmond Hill passed a resolution which reads as follows:

Whereas throughout Ontario for many decades local municipalities have existed and continue to exist as functioning and accepted jurisdictional creatures of the province, and the province has not explicitly informed the citizens of those municipalities of its intention to obliterate those local municipalities as entities;

and whereas the formation of regional government has already eroded the local functioning, especially in creation of regional roads and increased local taxation burdens and the imposition of regional land division committees and has further removed local responsiveness and accountability;

Therefore be it resolved that the council of this municipality requests that the provincial government state clearly and explicitly to the citizens of the province if it is the intention of the government of the Province of Ontario to move to a single tier of municipal government, that tier to be the regional one, with the eventual obliteration of local municipalities from any significant administrative, fiscal, planning or legislative function.

Bill 55 is just another example, in my respectful submission to this House, of the intention that prevails, through the Treasurer of Ontario, with respect to the establishment of a single-tier system of government in the region of York and the obliteration and complete erosion of local municipal autonomy. That view is shared by the municipally-elected councillors in the region of York.

The suggestion made by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), supported by the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart), makes eminent sense to me: that is, that this matter be hoisted. However, I cannot vote for a hoisting or support a hoisting in this

case, simply because there are sections of Bill 55 pertaining to the region of York—
[5:00]

Mr. Bain: Some pretty good mental gymnastics.

Mr. Stong: —which are imminent and must be passed immediately. And I will refer, Mr. Speaker, to sections 31 and 32 of Bill 55.

Mr. McClellan: He must be a Liberal deep down.

Mr. Stong: If I just may refer first, Mr. Speaker, to section 31 as it applies to the regional municipality of York.

Mr. Mackenzie: Why worry? The Liberals said they should have it dismantled anyway.

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, I will be moving that section 35 be struck out of bill 55 before its third reading.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. I would suggest that before going into the detail, that should be left to when the bill is referred to committee, assuming that it will be.

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, I will not make the motion at this point, but I will be moving that for the following reason. In my view on reading of the Act, which sets up other regional municipal councils throughout Ontario, the electorate lost the power to make a petition for the change of ward boundaries. This power was retained by the regional municipality of York, probably by an oversight.

In 1972, Mr. Speaker, in RSO, chapter 78, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of York Act, it was reinstated by section 2. And section 2 of that Act left in operation section 13 of the Municipal Act.

Section 13 of the Municipal Act, among other things, gives the right to 75 electors to petition a local municipal council. The local municipal council can then make ward changes. If the local municipal council elects not to make those ward changes, 75 electors may then appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board. That right, which is non-existent in the other regional municipal councils, is at the present time a right in the regional municipality of York, and must not be taken away. That right has been protected since 1972, and this Act intends to delete it. It is my respectful submission, Mr. Speaker, that that must not be deleted from this Act.

Section 32 is the section that must be passed immediately because, for the purposes of the municipal elections in 1976, it creates a new ward in the town of Markham. Four

years ago, 75 electors petitioned the town of Markham for a change of boundaries. The town failed to act on the petition. Nothing was done. Now the town has increased in size, and the town must look to this legislative assembly to create that ward, and that is done in section 32. So section 32 must be passed immediately with respect to the town of Markham.

Mr. Speaker, I also refer to section 32, subsection (d).

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The Chair assumes that the hon. member has made his point as to why we should give the bill second reading at this time. It would seem that the clause-by-clause analysis of the bill should take place in committee, rather than at second reading.

Mr. Stong: With respect, Mr. Speaker, the principle of this clause, section 32—and I would direct the attention of the minister and his assistant to the fact that for the purpose of discussion in committee, that this section does not allow the Ontario Municipal Board to change the representation of area municipalities on the regional council. That may be an oversight and perhaps it should be deleted and changed before third reading of this Act.

Again, Mr. Speaker—very briefly; I will have more to say on third reading of this—section 35 of the bill proposes an amendment to section 77(1) of the Regional Municipality of York Act by deleting the requirement for the approval of local traffic bylaws by the Minister of Transportation and Communications. This again takes away power that is available to the local municipalities; it may be an oversight, but it just may be intentional. I will be making more comments on that at a later stage.

I am also delighted with respect to the fact that the section 36 will be deleted. In the event that section 36 was not deleted as it pertains to the regional municipality of York, I would be moving that it consider an agreement in the operation of that section, an agreement as between the local municipalities and the regional council, before the powers under section 35 are exercised. My colleague from Waterloo North spoke on that section. He also spoke on the 75 per cent levy section. We are in favour of the removal of those from the Act for the reasons stated. Those basically are my submissions on this bill at this time with respect to our support thereof.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Is there any further discussion on second reading?

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I want to suggest to the parliamentary assistant that he give some thought to some form of delay, whether he accepts the hoist motion of my colleague or whether he accepts some other delay which allows us even a couple of weeks, taking it into the final week for passage, in order that we can give municipalities and municipal leaders an opportunity to express their opinion to the Legislature rather than simply in the way that those of us who are interested have sought their opinions.

I was always under the impression that the Provincial-Municipal Liaison Committee dealt with these kinds of things. I get a little report every week or so from the Provincial-Municipal Liaison Committee, and they tell me of all the great things that they are doing. One would have thought that they might be looking at legislation that the government is proposing or changes that would affect them that the government is proposing. It is becoming evident that perhaps they are not doing that. Maybe they are just listening to speeches from the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) as he talks about how great it is to live in Ontario.

I wonder whether it wouldn't make sense for the parliamentary assistant simply to agree that this could go to the standing committee of his choice. If he were to say that now, and save us the problem of going on and on, we could then inform the various municipalities very quickly that the opportunity would be there for them to appear before the standing committee a week on Wednesday, which would be a very suitable time. They could, if they wished, come in and make any representation that they wanted with regard to the proposed changes, perhaps making some other suggestions along the way as to other things the government could consider in its wisdom for future changes, and we could yet deal with this bill before the House rises. I don't see that as being a problem that we couldn't overcome.

I won't go on at length: I think it is evident that there are matters within the bill, which as the member for York Centre (Mr. Stong) indicated, may be necessary to be passed, but at the same time I think that many of us and many people outside of this chamber are a bit peeved, if that is the right choice of word, about the way the government went about this. They can't talk about local autonomy and the need to involve people and the partnership between the municipal and provincial governments if they are not prepared to go that extra step to make sure that all of the people concerned

and affected are both made aware of the changes contemplated and given ample opportunity to respond directly to them.

I don't think that it is really the responsibility of the opposition, no matter how dedicated it is—and God knows it is dedicated here—to go out and seek that kind of information any more than it's the responsibility of the government to do likewise. I think it's a joint responsibility of the Legislature and we have to find other ways of making sure that whatever changes are proposed they're circulated throughout the community at large to make sure the community most affected is knowledgeable and up to date.

If the parliamentary assistant would be prepared to say simply that he would send it out to committee and that there would be the opportunity to inform and invite the local municipal leaders to make their representations we could schedule that, I'm sure, for a week on Wednesday which would allow us to have the bill back in the House in time for that bill to be dealt with. I don't see how that would create any great hardship for him or for anyone else.

Mr. Mackenzie: The suggestion of my colleague, that we hoist the bill for the time being and allow for some additional input, being a good idea, I'm going to support it, not oppose it, unlike the member for York Centre. I want to tell the House that one of the interesting things in dealing with this bill has been the reaction of some of the many Tory councillors we have—there are still a few of them left even in my area when we consulted them about the bill. We sent them copies of it and forwarded copies of some of the observations made by some of the other regional councils, both thanking us for the bill and grumbling as to why they weren't consulted or weren't part of their own government's bill, in effect, or their own people's bill.

Our problems with regional government—I want to speak very briefly on it—are, in my opinion, to a large extent the result of a real lack of understood and soundly supported ground rules. Two obvious areas which come to me time and again are the questions of financing the region, the long-term financing of the various regions, and where was the authority so that we didn't duplicate our efforts? I think the tragedy, even of the amendments suggested here, is that when they're not brought about with some real consultation with the people involved, it compounds a growing feeling of a lot of people that there's something wrong with regional government. It takes a good idea—I think regional government is a good, sound

idea—and in the public's mind it starts losing its credibility.

I get the feeling that we have difficulty not only in consulting with this present government but in having it listen as well. I think the suggestion of my colleague from Riverdale that we delay this bill and allow for some input into it is a sound one and it seems to me that it should commend itself to the Tories if for no other reason than to try to recoup some of their errors by not consulting in the first place on this bill. The changes which have been made, the deletions from the bill, are largely as a result—it may not be admitted across the way—of the flak, I guess, or the feedback from the people whom the opposition, largely, have consulted in the communities involved.

It's meant they've had to make some changes. I want to say that, unlike the Liberal leader, at least, who is quoted as saying he'd dismantle regional governments if he was elected, I think it's a good idea. I think it should be made to work. If we're going to make changes and if we're going to make it work, I think we're going to have to do it with the involvement and participation of the municipal councils. It makes real sense to me that this bill should be delayed and we do have some input from some of the regional councils involved.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, perhaps at the outset, I could address myself to the evident concern on the part of the members on the opposite side of the House about the question of consultation which has dominated the debate on second reading.

[5:15]

I think that's clearly something which is and must always be of concern to us as members of this Legislature, seeking constantly to try to improve the methods of communication; to look for new approaches, perhaps, to improving that communication with the people throughout the province and those at other levels of government. It appears, though, that there is some, either misunderstanding or some misinformation with respect to the process we did engage in with respect to this bill. If I may I would like, although it may not go to the principle of the bill perhaps just for clarification, to indicate some of the areas where I think there is some misinformation.

First of all, perhaps, I think I should point out that there are—for the sake of those who may not recall the precise number—some 835 municipalities in the Province of Ontario. Not all of them are involved in this particular piece of legislation but all of them are af-

ferred by at least the next two or three pieces of legislation which will be before this House.

So that raises, I think, an important question as to how one effectively consults with and responds, on any individualized basis, to 835 municipalities across the province. I'm just putting that in the context, not of this bill alone but of the three that are presently under consideration.

In addition to that, I think the government must always be mindful of the fact it is responsible to the Legislature of the Province of Ontario that sits here, in this chamber. I think there is sometimes a difficult decision to be made between going away from this Legislature, and consulting, advising, presenting to other bodies throughout this province, information which is not yet available or is not yet before the Legislature.

I think there is danger that a government might turn its back upon the very body to which it is primarily responsible, made up as it is of those of you who are elected to represent the people of the Province of Ontario. We have heard criticisms leveled at representatives and governments at other levels in this province and in this country for that very kind of conduct.

So I think one must be mindful of one's responsibility to the Legislature. And that raises a question as to whether you consult upon the introduction and presentation of a bill to the Legislature; or do you ignore the Legislature and do it prior to the formal step being taken of presenting your proposals to the people to whom you bear responsibility?

Mr. Deans: You do both.

Mr. Moffatt: You don't believe that?

Mr. Norton: That is precisely what we have done in this case.

Now may I give you a rundown of the sequence. April 13 I believe is the date—there was a change of the date for that meeting in my diary, but I believe it was April 13—I met with the Provincial-Municipal Liaison Committee, at which time this piece of legislation and the Metropolitan Toronto Amendment Act were discussed. Now this one, because of the fact there were so many similarities in terms of the amendments, one or the other may have got less detailed discussion because—

Mr. Deans: This one got less.

Mr. Norton: Yes; but bear in mind, please, that there was a great deal of duplication in

terms of the amendments; they were, in many ways, precisely the same.

So there was discussion, and that was prior to the presentation to the House; and I had great reservations about how much detail or how much concrete information I should be giving to the people before that bill was presented to the House.

The following day, if my recollection is correct, the bill was presented to the House for first reading. I had indicated to the Provincial-Municipal Liaison Committee that there would be delay so we could discuss their responses to the proposed legislation; and in fact the bill has, I believe, been on the order paper now for some six weeks.

That was not the full extent of the consultation and communication with municipal representatives around the province. I am very cognizant of the fact that the members of the opposition were in contact with the municipal representatives in the province, but I hope they don't assume that I wasn't. This six weeks has been a very active six weeks of consultation. It has involved meetings with municipal representatives, it has involved telephone conversations, it has involved extensive correspondence.

I think it has been a very helpful and a very worthwhile process. If that is not a consultative process, then perhaps I was wrong. But if you feel that I ought to take a different approach at another time or perhaps if the PMLC meetings had not been scheduled, as they were, that there might have been a greater lag between that and the presentation to the House—

Mr. Mackenzie: Somebody just lost half of your list, that's all.

Mr. Norton: I am sorry: I don't understand what the hon. member is saying.

Mr. Deans: Did you speak to other than the chairmen of the various regions?

Mr. Mackenzie: You didn't get in touch with them and you should have.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Norton: On the PMLC, I can think immediately of only one regional chairman who was in regular attendance—and I hope I am not omitting someone—sorry, two. Three? Okay—

Interjections.

Mr. Norton: There are two that I remember offhand. In addition to that, I have not

had direct conversation with regional chairmen around the province. Most of my communication over the six-week period has been with one regional chairman and other representatives—mayors and members of councils—from across the province. If the hon. members are suggesting or have any suspicion that the communication has been primarily with the appointed as opposed to the elected people, then that is simply not true.

The point I wish to make is that the concern about the consultative process is something which I am sure is shared generally here. I think we have done an effective job in terms of responding to the communications we have received, and the two proposed amendments that I have indicated I will introduce in committee of the whole are designed primarily to relieve what I think must be at least 99 per cent of the concerns that have been expressed to us during that six-week period of consultation.

The proposal that we now delay the matter further, whether it be for two weeks, which strikes me as being perhaps impractically short for that type of process—

Mr. Deans: Do it for longer.

Mr. Norton: —or whether it be for four months, as the hon. member for Riverdale suggested, seems to me to be unnecessary. The hon. members opposite have heard, and we have heard, the concerns expressed by the municipal representatives throughout the province. It seems to me that we have very good reading of what the concerns are. I think some of them were based upon a perhaps unjustified concern, but nevertheless a very deeply felt concern.

Those concerns were communicated, not only by them directly but through representatives on the other side of the House and certainly very strongly by members of our own caucus, about things like the 75 per cent levy. I don't wish to get into a discussion of the merits of it, but that was essentially a permissive provision. If we are concerned about local autonomy, then surely this could very well be seen as the transmittal of additional authority to the local levels of government. However, given the responses and the fact that we have been asked to reconsider it, I am not embarrassed to say, as someone else has suggested I ought to be, that we reconsidered it. It seems to me that is part of the consultative process and part of being responsive. Surely we don't simply go through the act of

listening and then ignore it when we have heard. So I am not embarrassed to say that we are introducing these amendments.

I think the process has been successful and productive, and I trust we will be able to improve and smooth out the process of consultation in the future. The very fact that there has been response, I think, indicates success in the effort.

I would urge the members of the opposition, particularly the official opposition, to reconsider their position with respect to delaying the matter further. I think they have a clear reading now, and I believe we have a clear reading now, of the position of the municipalities. There has been a period of consultation. I have not been able to confirm precisely when the copies of the bill were sent out. It was my understanding that they were to be sent out the day or the day after it was introduced; apparently there was a delay in the posting of them. I might also indicate that there was consultation at the staff level before the thing was introduced and that information could have been made available by the staff of the municipalities following introduction. That is not to cast any responsibility for this situation upon municipal employees but there were fairly extensive efforts made to make municipalities aware—or give them the resources to be aware—of the intent of the legislation to be introduced.

In conclusion I would ask the members of the opposition to permit this to be proceeded with now. As has been indicated, the provisions which would remain in it, if the amendments are accepted, are not by and large sections which have resulted in any negative response from the municipalities in the province. Some of the sections would be very helpful to the municipalities if they were now available to them. I think we would be doing an injustice to them if we delayed the process further. Six weeks of consultation, I think, have been productive. I see no need to extend it further.

Mr. Deans: It depends how you interpret the word consultation, doesn't it?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Mr. Renwick has moved that Bill 55, being the Regional Municipalities Amendment Act, 1976, be not now read a second time but be read this day four months hence.

The question before the House at the present time is shall this bill now be read a second time?

Mr. Kennedy: On a point of clarification, can this be dealt with when the hon. member who has moved the motion is not present?

Mr. Deans: Of course it can.

Mr. Kennedy: I was asking him, not you.

Mr. Acting Speaker: It is not necessary for the mover of a motion or amendment to be present when it is dealt with by the House or committee.

[5:30]

The House divided on the question of whether Bill 55 be now read the second time, which was approved on the following vote:

AYES

Auld
Belanger
Bernier
Breithaupt
Brunelle
Bullbrook
Campbell
Cunningham
Eaton
Edighoffer
Ferris
Givens
Good
Gregory
Grossman
Hall
Henderson
Hodgson
Irvine
Kennedy
Lane
Leluk
MacBeth
Mancini
McCague
McKessock
McNeil
Miller

(Haldimand-Norfolk)

Morrow

Newman

(Durham North)

Newman

(Windsor-Walkerville)

Norton

Parrott

Peterson

Reid

(Rainy River)

Rollins

Ruston

Scrivener

NAYS

Bain
Breugh
Burr
Davison
(Hamilton Centre)
Deans
di Santo
Duksza
Ferrier
Foulds
Germa
Gigantes
Grande
Laughren
MacDonald
Mackenzie
Martel
Moffatt
Philip
Renwick
Samis
Swart
Warner
Young
Ziemba—24.

AYES

Singer
Smith
(Nipissing)
Snow
Spence
Stephenson
Stong
Sweeney
Timbrell
Villeneuve
Wells
Williams
Wiseman—50.

Clerk of the House: Mr. Speaker, the "ayes" are 50, the "nays" 24.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for committee of the whole House?

Mr. Good: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the bill has now had second reading and can be now directed to either standing committee or committee of the whole House, would the parliamentary assistant reconsider his decision and send the bill to standing committee, so that there could be municipal input?

Mr. Reid: Right.

Mr. Bain: That's what we were asking for.

Interjections.

Mr. Good: You are trying to kill it; that's what you are trying to do.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Kingston and the Islands has the floor.

Mr. Martel: You don't know what you are doing. Why don't you find out what is going on once in a while?

Mr. Warner: You guys don't even know how the system really works.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, as I think was very fully discussed this afternoon during the debate, the consultative process has taken now some six weeks, and I think the members on both sides of the House have had ample time to consult with the municipal officials throughout the Province of Ontario. I see no reason for this bill now going to a standing committee. I think the House is

quite able to deal with it in committee of the whole.

Clerk of the House: The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment

to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX
(See page 2798.)

Answer to a question was tabled as follows:

81. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry: Would the Minister of Industry and Tourism please table the list of all advertisements related to the three development corporations (ODC, EODC and NODC) and note the type of ad, the size of ad, the cost of ad, the distribution area of the media used, the number of times the ad was run, and the number of inquiries received as of a direct result of that ad?

Answer by the Minister of Industry and Tourism:

THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS
ADVERTISEMENTS: PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 1975 TO MARCH 31, 1976

Distribution Area	Newspapers	Sizes of Ads	Type of Ad	No. of Times Run	Total	
Ontario Development Corp.						
Cornwall/ Ottawa/ Toronto	Globe & Mail Ottawa Freeholder Topical	2x2½ min. 5x2 max. 100 L min.	“Help Wanted” “Help Wanted” “Help Wanted”	18	\$1,379.93	
Montreal	Montreal Gazette	112 L max.	“Receivership Sale”	1	<u>275.24</u>	\$ 1,655.17
Eastern Ontario Development Corp.						
Peterborough to Carleton Place	Local Newspapers Topical	130-150L 2½x2 min. 4x2 max.	Promotional “Help Wanted”	216 2	\$6,488.52 <u>61.92</u>	\$ 6,550.44
Northern Ontario Development Corp.						
Timmins	Local Newspapers	14” min. 380 L max. 1 Colour	Promotional	60	\$2,418.72	
Thunder Bay	Job Mart Local Newspapers	3x2” 14” min. 224 L	“Help Wanted” Promotional	1 31	30.96 634.51	
Sudbury	Local Newspapers	18” min. 280 L	Promotional	<u>31</u>	<u>1,473.33</u>	<u>\$ 4,557.52</u>
TOTAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS				<u>360</u>		<u>\$12,763.13</u>

RESPONSE: Response to ads was favourable and in the case of EODC was very good. No statistical data was kept on inquiries.

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Government
Publications

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Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Tuesday, June 1, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member for Sudbury has the floor at this time.

Mr. Germa: Mr. Speaker, you will recall that last Tuesday evening when I was speaking in this debate we were discussing the redistribution of wealth in the Province of Ontario. After a little discourse we had come to the conclusion, I think unanimously, that this government, over the past 10 years, had not distributed \$1 as far as moving wealth into the lower 20 per cent of our society is concerned. The figures of 10 years ago match almost precisely the distribution figures as they are today.

I recall my colleague from Cornwall (Mr. Samis) had been speaking on this same item at an earlier point in time when he was speaking about the minimum wage in Canada. He put on the record the facts and figures to show that the Province of Ontario is now the sixth province in Canada as far as the minimum wage is concerned. The Province of Ontario is behind Newfoundland as far as the minimum wage is concerned.

The Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) at that point in time took objection to the statements by my colleague from Cornwall and tried to defend herself by saying that Ontario's wage rate was ahead of Ohio's. She did admit, of course, that we were behind Newfoundland.

Maybe it would make the Minister of Labour feel better if I were to tell her—she is listening, I presume, from somewhere in the bowels of this building—that her minimum wage rate is ahead of that of the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Afganistan and Madagascar and just a little bit ahead of Bangladesh's. I would suggest that with her attitude she might be a good Minister of Labour in Rhodesia or South Africa but certainly she doesn't represent the attitude of the people on Ontario.

Many people are speaking on this subject of the redistribution of wealth—people in high

places—and this government is prone to listen to the powerful and privileged people in Ontario. I happened to run across a speech by Robert D. Armstrong, chairman of Rio Algom Ltd., that great humanitarian mining corporation in Elliot Lake. Mr. Armstrong was quite concerned about any government's preoccupation with redistribution of wealth. He says:

In essence, we have been continuing our uncritical acceptance of the notion that a main priority of the state should be to radically redistribute income.

[He goes on to state] Government redistribution projects have been hugely expensive for the results obtained. Free hospital care, free medical care, payments to the unemployed and old age pensions are examples of the redistribution programmes. While properly introduced to meet social needs, they have been designed and administered in such a way that costs far exceed social benefits.

[He goes on] My point is, however, that the many income redistribution welfare programmes that have been imposed upon Canadian society, while in many individual instances are desirable in principle, have been destructive.

Mr. Armstrong tells us that old age security pensions are destructive and that health care programmes are destructive. In looking after those people who are not capable of extracting from society their fair share of the wealth we are being destructive. I would point out to Mr. Armstrong how Rio Algom has acted in the past as far as looking after the weaker people is concerned.

When Mr. Winters retired as chairman of the board of Rio Algom to re-enter politics in 1965, he was given a tax-free pension settlement of \$499,000; and to the insiders it seemed a bargain.

Now, that is the attitude of one very important person in Ontario as far as redistribution of income is concerned. He doesn't mind giving \$499,000 to one of his confreres, one of his fat-cat friends, but he objects to the government of Ontario redistributing incomes to look after the health and welfare of the people in Ontario and our senior citizens.

Mr. Samis: Welfare for the rich.

Mr. Germa: It is welfare for the rich, that is for sure.

Another great humanitarian in Ontario—and I just happened to come across a speech of his—is the president of Noranda Mines. And his name is very popular in this House. Everyone knows what Mr. Alfred Powis stands for, the president of Noranda. And in his speech to the shareholders on Apr. 30, 1976, he said:

In recent years we have become altogether too preoccupied with the redistribution of wealth, to the exclusion of its creation.

Let me remind Mr. Powis that if the wealth of Ontario at its present level of production were distributed properly, I think Ontario could live from now till doomsday at a very high lifestyle level.

In Peter Newman's book, "The Canadian Establishment," Mr. Powis also had a quote:

The terrible problem we've got in Canada is that everybody is preoccupied with the distribution of wealth, and nobody is paying attention to the fact that you have to create the wealth you're trying to distribute.

These people are all concerned about redistribution of wealth. I think that was one of the motivating reasons why this government, because of their close affinity to the corporate sector in Ontario, introduced in their budgetary estimates this restraint programme, which is cutting back severely on redistribution of those services that the Province of Ontario has pretty well taken for granted.

In the book, "The Canadian Establishment," Mr. Powis goes on and says:

Another difference is that fundamentally I am a hired gun, while people like Bud McDougald and Nelson Davis are looking after their own money.

Mr. Powis admits to his attitude that he is only a hired gun and he is up for hire. Noranda has hired him and that is how he functions. Mr. Powis suffers very severely from income redistribution. He's a member of Montreal's Mount Royal Club, the most snobbish club in the country.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Next to the NDP.

Mr. Germa: The Mount Royal's ashtrays still come equipped with silver toothpicks.

Mr. Samis: Are you going to defend the Petroleum Club in Calgary?

Interjections.

Mr. Germa: Who is this man to condemn senior citizens for wanting health care and drug care, and to argue about the redistribution of wealth when he can live in the style he does?

Peter Newman's book also cites the luxuries these people have. Noranda Mines has a Grumman Gulfstream II, a 512-knot, 3,000-mile range jet aircraft for the service of Mr. Powis. There are six other companies in the Province of Ontario which enjoy \$5 million aircraft in order to float around the country.

Jack Cline, the former MacMillan Bloedel chairman, said in the book, "The Canadian Establishment," that if you do away with the profit motive you are acting in a manner totally contrary to the human instinct. Another famous person we know, I am quoting him, says, "If I had unlimited wealth and the CRTC would let me have all the electronic media I wanted"—this is John Bassett, president of Baton Broadcasting Inc. to the Windsor Star—"I would be a real pig. I like it and if you are in business you want more; you want to be a real pig."

It is amazing that these men can go out and describe themselves as hired guns and real pigs as far as profits are concerned. I think it is important that the government of Ontario and every elected person in Canada should be aware of these people going around spouting such nonsense.

What else is Mr. Powis doing? I received a copy of a letter today, dated May 28, 1976, addressed to Mr. Alfred Powis, president of Noranda Mines Ltd., from 130 Wembley Court, Sudbury, signed by Stephen Heiti. It says:

Dear Mr. Powis:

I understand that Noranda Mines Ltd. will spend millions in partnership with the Chilean military junta to exploit copper at Andacollo.

I most strongly protest the investment by your firm in the country where, according to the news reports and the UN Human Rights Commission, human rights are denied by restriction of freedom by arrest, detention and torture. Such an investment by your corporation implies internationally that I and all Canadians approve of that brutal and self-serving regime. The association disgusts me.

There should be no investment in Chile and no dealings with the junta until democratic rights are restored to Chilean citizens.

That is an ordinary Sudbury citizen, a citizen of the Province of Ontario and a citizen of Canada who objects to a Canadian corporation joining hands with a despotic military junta in Chile for the sole purpose of enhancing the profits of Noranda Mines.

I suspect I know why Mr. Powis has so much clout in the Province of Ontario. I happened to run across the donations to the Conservative Party in the last election. I see Noranda Mines donated \$4,000 to the Conservative Party of Ontario for the last campaign.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: What is that supposed to mean?

Mr. Germa: Mr. Powis—I am sure you are proud to be associated with a man who has joined hands with one of the most despotic regimes in the world today, the military junta of Chile.

Mr. Gregory: That's your opinion.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: What about Hanoi and Peking?

Mr. Germa: Of course, you are not in this bag all alone. You are not alone; someone else is in the bag with you too.

Mr. Ferrier: Does the Minister of Energy support the present Chilean regime's policies?

Mr. Germa: Noranda Mines also donated to the Liberals in the last campaign.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Germa: They also donated to the Liberals. Of course, the Liberals are only half what the PCs are so the Liberals only got \$2,000 out of Mr. Powis.

I think you fellows should check into that and find out who is getting double duff.

What I really wanted to talk about was the area of the province I know best.

Mr. Norton: This is sour grapes.

Mr. Germa: It is that area known as northeastern Ontario, the geographic district of northeastern Ontario. It is the place from whence I come, where I was born and a place I have lived in all my life. The disillusionment and the disenchantment that the people feel towards this government, that has ruled Ontario—misruled Ontario, I should say—for the past 33 years.

[8:15]

Mr. Gregory: And they keep getting in.

Mr. Mackenzie: The end is getting closer and closer.

Mr. Germa: The disenchantment has grown to such a degree that a former Conservative, one Mr. Diebel of North Bay, has formed the Northern Ontario Separatist Party. We've seen this fellow down here on the lawn, plaguing the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the cabinet ministers. He is presently asking for a vote to allow the people of northern Ontario to separate into a separate province. He's so disillusioned with this government that he's willing to balkanize Ontario.

Mr. Haggerty: Do you agree with him? Are you in agreement with him, Bud?

Mr. Wiseman: Are you in favour of that?

Mr. B. Newman: Is that your policy?

Mr. Germa: I'm not a supporter of Mr. Diebel's. Mr. Diebel, if he had his way, would only set up another regime like the one we have across the way. If we cannot afford one like that, how in the hell could we afford two?

Hon. B. Stephenson: There's no way we can afford you.

Mr. Germa: The Conservatives are pretty politically astute. The member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) has been beating around the bushes, trying to get the cabinet to accept a Ministry of Northern Ontario. This is going to be a superminister. He's going to handle everything that happens in northern Ontario, be it welfare, health, transportation, mining, university or education. All 25 portfolios are going to be rolled into this one big package known as the Ministry of Northern Ontario. Of course, the member for Algoma-Manitoulin has admitted that this is only a political gimmick and it might serve to save their necks in northern Ontario, because we know that there are only four Tories left up there. I understand one of them is retiring, and I suspect that the next time around there could be only three left in northern Ontario.

Mr. Samis: Maybe two.

Mr. Moffatt: Maybe none.

Mr. Lane: You don't hear very well.

Mr. Norton: You're not an advocate of a northern Ontario province, surely?

Mr. Germa: I just happened to come across a clipping from the Sudbury Star of

May 15, 1976, which states: "The last grand jury in the province went out with a bang, recommending that the Sudbury district jail be replaced." I've heard that story very often about grand jury recommendations, but this government sits here on its apathy and the jail is still there, as it was about 75 years ago. It's little things like that that don't take any great thought. A committee doesn't have to be formed to decide we need a new jail. Grand juries have told the government at least 10 times in the last 10 years that a new jail is required. But even if the government does build a jail, that's really not going to solve our problems.

What I really want to talk about is the publication that came out of the Treasury, entitled, "Ontario's Future: Trends and Options," and the various recommendations in that study. I think everyone has looked through all of these documents, and even on page 1 we notice contradictions in the sense that the government has no consensus about what it really wants to do. On page 1 it says: "The conclusion may be summed up in a few words: the imperative need for prudent management of change in Ontario."

Management of change is predominantly required in the Province of Ontario. How did the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) react to that? On April 30, 1976, speaking to the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, meeting in the Holiday Inn at Sault Ste. Marie, the Treasurer said—and he was referring to the recommendations in "Ontario's Future: Trends and Options"—and I quote:

The role of the government, therefore, is not to impose any plan upon the people but to reinforce their chosen lifestyle, including the making of individual choices without the arbitrary or dictatorial intervention of government.

How many times have we heard that? It is this government's inability to interfere in the marketplace that has caused the urban sprawl problem in the Metropolitan Toronto area to the detriment of the sparse population in the northern part, with farm land going out of production and with the city of Toronto almost out of control, as far as transportation is concerned at least. Yet, when the report makes a firm conclusion and a recommendation that there has to be some management in Ontario, the Treasurer, out of hand rejects it.

The report being rejected by the Treasurer is of no value when we know it is not acceptable, but they go on and give us a lot of

information which we knew. The benefit of this package of documents is that they have put it together in one package and we can very readily see what has happened. They say in the introduction, for example, "Economic difficulties in northern and eastern Ontario are at least in part related to the growing concentration of people and production in the south central part of the province." That's exactly what I said two seconds ago.

Nine out of 10 Ontarians live in the three southern planning regions at an overall density of nearly 170 people to the square mile, higher than that of India and approaching the densities of Britain and Italy. This is the magnitude of the problem we are facing here in the "golden horseshoe" area. Our density is equal to India's, Italy's and Great Britain's and we all know the problems which have befallen those states mostly because of too dense a population. Yet we sit here and the Treasurer says he is not going to interfere with the redistribution of population in the Province of Ontario.

The northern and eastern regions are actually experiencing net migration losses. The north is even losing 10 per cent of its natural increases. I know something about that. I had a family up there and there was no way my family could stay in northeastern Ontario because we know there is very little work or none for females in that part of the province. I happen to have female children and there was just no way they could work in a lumber camp or down a mine. That is about all the Province of Ontario or the government of Ontario has offered us in the northeast part of the province.

Mr. Norton: Do you mean you would allow them free choice after what you just said about the government?

Mr. Germa: What does this do to the overpopulated area in the south?

Mr. Swart: We control the money. You control the people.

Mr. Germa: It has led to an intense competition for land in which success is determined, on the whole, by individual and corporate economic strength rather than by the needs of society. The corporations have us by the throat. The land speculators—we know the acreages around this particular urban area which are controlled by the large land development speculative companies.

Mr. Swart: You should see what they give to the Tory candidates.

Mr. Germa: I have it here, if you want to look at it.

Mr. Swart: I have it, too.

Mr. Germa: Meanwhile—

Mr. Swart: The maximum.

Mr. Germa: —other parts of the province experience slow growth; sub-optimum economies; and inadequate access to public services. Also utilization of the natural resources on which their economy depends is at a lower level than it could be, partly because of their remoteness from markets and processing centres. The Design for Development says that if present trends are allowed to take their course some of these problems will become progressively more serious and it makes recommendations that recognize the government's responsibility to carry out and give direction to regional land use and economic development planning. It recognizes the government's responsibility to ensure that all development in the province takes place as a result of good regional planning.

We know what happened to the development of the latest steel mill in the Province of Ontario, the one which is going to Nanticoke, in one of the most densely populated parts of the province, on prime agricultural land. We know full well that the ores which are going to fire that furnace come from northern Ontario. They come right past areas which the minister from Moonbeam knows are crying out for employment—such areas as Blind River and Parry Sound. Does it make any economic sense to ship iron ore all the way from Wawa to 20 miles south of Hamilton? By the way, Hamilton doesn't need any more pollution, and yet we go ahead and do a thing like that.

Mr. Haggerty: You can have some of it up north, Bud.

Mr. Germa: Also contained in this package of information was the "Northeastern Ontario Regional Strategy," which gives us some of the details of the problem in northeastern Ontario. One of the general guidelines is that private enterprise has a vital role to play in the development of the northeast. I doubt that very much. We've had private enterprise in northeastern Ontario for the past 75 years and they certainly haven't done much for that part of the province.

Mr. Warner: They've taken out all the wealth.

Mr. Germa: A further recommendation on economic strategy in the mining sector, recommendation No. 5, reads:

To increase benefits from the mineral resources of the region, further treatment and refinement of ores domestically should be required . . . and processing within northeastern Ontario should be promoted by continued use of financial incentives.

I just happen to have a copy of a speech by Mr. L. E. Grubb, chairman and chief officer of the International Nickel Co. In talking to his shareholders, he paid tribute to the Province of Ontario. He said:

The Ontario government declared a five-year moratorium on the implementation of its earlier decision to disallow foreign processing costs. This was a welcome and sensible measure to help an ailing industry.

We all know what that is about: When the government of Ontario saw fit to disallow, for tax purposes, the cost of processing Ontario ores outside of the continent. When the mining companies put a little pressure on this government, they backed down and said: "We're going to give you five more years before you have to comply with the law." There are many laws in this province that many of us don't agree with, but at no time has the government of Ontario come to me and said, "We're going to give you five years in which to comply." Yet they went ahead and gave the International Nickel Co. five years to comply with the laws that they themselves had seen fit to pass and which they must have known were necessary.

The report goes on to say that we should give more financial incentive to industrialists in order to encourage them into northeastern Ontario. I have to reject that recommendation. We have probably pumped hundreds of millions of dollars in gifts and tax abatement programmes over the past 50 years to no avail. The incentive system just doesn't work.

The resource base strategy, as indicated in the northeastern Ontario report, doesn't say very much: "Efforts to prevent and remedy environmental pollution and degradation should be continued and intensified." That is only common sense after having seen the destruction that has happened in my particular area around the city of Sudbury. Many hon. members have been there and have seen the destruction. I would venture a guess that if the company that did the destruction was assessed for the destruction that they have caused, it would not have been a profitable industry throughout these years. The profit they made was at the cost of the people of that area and at the cost of the environment.

Northeastern Ontario also suffers from a very narrow economic base and economic instability. We know that the world trends in the metal market have a profound effect on the employment picture in northeastern Ontario. It has been a boom-and-bust economy throughout the years. There's no hope, while this government is in power, of that being corrected. The government has simply opted out of interfering in the free market economy to the detriment of the people in the area. [8:30]

Something that really plagues northeastern Ontario is the job opportunities. The women in northeastern Ontario are particularly deprived of job opportunities because of the narrow economic base.

I would like to read some figures into the record, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to employment opportunities. I am quoting from "Northeastern Ontario Regional Strategy":

In 1971, only 30 per cent of working-aged women in northeastern Ontario had jobs or were looking for work as compared to 44 per cent for the rest of Ontario. Of the women in the labour force in northeast, 10.2 per cent were unemployed. By comparison, only 6.8 per cent of men in northeastern Ontario were unemployed.

So we have a variance of 37 per cent of employed females in northeast, compared with 44 per cent for the province as a whole.

The youth also have a hard struggle in northeastern Ontario. The report says:

The lack of job opportunities for young people has left large numbers of unemployed and prompted many to leave the region. In 1971, 17.2 per cent of 15 to 24-year-olds in the labour force were unemployed. This is in contrast to 13.5 per cent for 15 to 24-year-olds in the remainder of the province.

Now, the location of the jobs are really not that good either. The variety is very, very limited. Unless you are a certain type of person who likes to work in the mine or in the forest, then you just don't have a job up there. The security of the jobs is lacking as well. I will quote again:

In many of the single-enterprise communities of the region, temporary employment layoffs present particular difficulties, because few alternative employment opportunities are readily available. The reduced purchasing power of those out of work hurts businesses in the community.

Job satisfaction is also very low because of the menial tasks involved. And the report says

regional employers have experienced difficulty in obtaining and retaining workers in a variety of occupations. Shortages still persist in such categories as miners, woodsmen, skilled tradesmen and professionals.

No one wants to go there because of a lack of services. And one can hardly blame them when one considers that it is possible to have to travel 250 miles to go to a dentist in some parts of northeastern and northwestern Ontario.

Incomes are lower in northeastern Ontario than they are in the rest of the province—and I will give you some figures on that—despite the fact that the cost of living is higher in that part of the province than in the rest of Ontario.

Average after-tax income in 1973 in northeastern Ontario was \$6,009. For the rest of Ontario it was \$6,530—even despite the fact that living costs are higher.

Housing costs when related to income also exceed that of Toronto. Cost of food is a major concern of householders. The report says:

Most people living in the region have to pay food prices that are five to 10 per cent higher than those in Metro Toronto. At the extreme, people in Moose Factory pay food costs 28 per cent higher than those in Metro Toronto. The region's agricultural production is relatively small, so most food must be brought in from importing, processing and distributing centres in southern Ontario.

A market basket of 30 selected items in Kitchener on Feb. 28, 1974, would have cost you \$21.51, whereas in Moose Factory the same 30 items would cost you \$27.58.

Health care is also deficient. I made a speech last year in the House and I laid out the problem that we in metropolitan Sudbury endure, even though we are a community of 100,000 people. I put on the record the facts and figures to show that approximately 600 people a year have to come to the Princess Margaret Hospital in the City of Toronto in order to receive treatment for cancer. The litany of neglect as enunciated in these documents goes on and on and it condemns this government for its lack of concern and lack of initiative in northeastern Ontario. It is little wonder that the people in that part of the province have turned away from the Tories as far as supporting their programme is concerned.

Hardly anyone who comes from the city of Sudbury could sit down without mentioning the International Nickel Co. I did

mention them lightly a little earlier but I'd like to bring to the attention of the House a situation which has developed recently. The Law of the Sea Conference passed a motion, proposed by the United States, that development of nickel from the Pacific Ocean should begin and be increased at the rate of six per cent annually.

The riding I represent has traditionally supplied nickel to the free western world at the rate of probably 60 per cent. I understand it is a little over 50 per cent now; the nickel for the western world comes from the mines of the Sudbury area. Here we have a proposition from the Law of the Sea Conference and while this is an international problem I think it should be brought to the attention of the House.

The government members should recognize that this great friend of theirs, the International Nickel Co. which they have protected all these years; protected their profits; allowed them to extract these depleting resources; allowed them to burn the landscape with sulphur dioxide, this friend is interested in the sea-bed nodules of nickel. The sea-bed nodules of nickel cover an area 10,000 miles long and 1,000 miles wide in a strip right across the Pacific Ocean.

The International Nickel Co., with money produced as the result of exploiting an Ontario resource, is deeply implicated in mining from the sea bed. Last Monday night in Nickel Park in Copper Cliff, the vice-president of International Nickel Co., Mr. Young, tried to alleviate the fears of the people of Sudbury by saying the International Nickel Co. really did us a favour by coming to Sudbury. He said, "We knew about the nickel deposits in Indonesia before we knew about the nickel deposits in the Sudbury basin. Despite the fact we knew about the Indonesian deposits, we still chose to mine the nickel in Sudbury."

That's pretty hard for me to swallow. I think the reason the International Nickel Co. mined the nickel resources in the city of Sudbury was that there was more profit. There was more profit to be made from extracting the ore body in Ontario than there was in Indonesia. It is true now that International Nickel Co. is opening up a production site in Indonesia. It should go on-stream some time this year, within a few months. Is the International Nickel Co. endangered by this exploitation of sea-bed nodules?

I happen to have a communique from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Team Nairobi. I'm quoting from Communique No. 6, and it says:

It is hardly surprising that the world's major mining trans-nationals have joined together in a number of undersea mining consortia. Inco is in partnership with Sumitomo, the vast conglomerate which is the number one producer of metals in Japan, and the AMR Group of West Germany, in one such venture.

So I think that we are endangered, not only in the city of Sudbury but in the Province of Ontario, in that if sea-bed mining can be made as profitable as the mining in northern Ontario, then we can very well see that the International Nickel Co. could very easily pull up its stakes and leave us stranded, despite all of the privileges this government has granted them over the past 30 or 40 years.

The council of the city of Sudbury took into consideration what was happening as far as sea-bed mining is concerned and they did pass a resolution. It was addressed to the Rt. Hon. Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada. On May 11, 1976, the council passed the following resolution:

Whereas the United States of America has included certain clauses in a new negotiation draft to be discussed at the Law of the Sea Conference that would allow the sea-bed mining of nickel to increase at the rate of six per cent per annum;

and whereas such a clause would effectively flood the market with nickel at a rate much greater than the anticipated world demand;

and whereas by doing so the United States would effectively ruin Canada's position as a world leader in nickel production;

and whereas such action would have a devastating effect on the economy of nickel mining towns throughout Canada, and particularly in northern Ontario, as well as drastically affecting the balance of payments of Canada;

therefore be it resolved that this council hereby oppose any such action;

and be it further resolved that this council requests, most adamantly, that the government of Canada firmly oppose the clause as submitted by the United States concerning sea-bed mining of nickel when the Law of the Sea Conference resumes in August.

Since that time our Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. MacEachen, has talked with Henry K.—I think they were in Copenhagen, and they did have a little tête-à-tête—but just the same, when we leave the decisions to the free market then the motivation

for profit is going to overpower any other consideration.

We also know what the International Nickel Co. has done in the past with the money they generated by exploiting our nickel deposits. We know that they spent—I think it was \$250 million a year or so ago—to take over control of ESB of the United States, the Electric Storage Battery Co. This is money generated in Ontario. Rather than put it to use developing and establishing processing facilities in northeastern Ontario to supply further secondary industry, they chose to spend \$250 million to acquire control of Electric Storage Battery in the United States.

Now that ESB has been taken over by the International Nickel Co. it appears that things are happening over there which they are not too happy with as well. I just happened to intercept a telegram, dated May 17, 1976; and it's addressed to Mr. Jan Hodan of Stockholm, Sweden. He is the secretary of the Nordic Metalworkers' Federation. This telegram brings us up to date on the International Nickel Co.'s attitude now that it has taken over ESB; and it reads:

ESB taken over by International Nickel of Canada but US government suing to force divesting. Home plant ESB, Philadelphia, negotiating new collective agreement but management formerly accessible now tough, refusing profit information. IUE has set strike deadline June 1 a.m.

[8:45]

That was signed by Dan Benedict, secretary of the International Metalworkers' Federation.

What else is going on? ESB is now taking over control of another major corporation with money generated, of course, from the operation in Ontario. It is also going to take over Tudor subsidiaries of AGA in Austria, Colombia, Greece, Finland, Norway and Spain.

The money generated in Ontario out of the Sudbury ore body is being used to buy up corporations all over this world, now that International Nickel Co. has taken over control. These are the men who are advising this government and it is possibly the reason, when we have such a horrendous budget, that my caucus and I are motivated to resist when the time comes that the vote is called.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to follow the member who talked very authoritatively about hired guns and pigs, the Law of the Sea Conference and, I guess more appropriately, the area of his expertise, northern Ontario.

As the member for Wentworth North, I am particularly pleased to participate in debate on the budget at this time. For the information of my fellow members of the House, my riding comprises the township of Flamorough, the towns of Ancaster and Dundas and part of Hamilton Mountain, otherwise known as "Sanity Island." Throughout these municipalities are a number of small villages that still retain their identities despite their amalgamation into a regional system of government.

Mr. Samis: Is this a geography lesson?

Mr. Cunningham: I refer to Carlisle, Millgrove, Freelon, Strabane, Carluke, Lynden and, of course, Waterdown, where I live. History would record the area to be dominated by a middle class type of society with a healthy appreciation of the benefits of small town or rural living. Perhaps this is the most important thing for the citizens of my riding. There still exists an active farm community, one that should continue to grow and serve the increasing needs of the urban area that surrounds it.

The riding itself was redistributed in 1966 to reflect the current boundaries. Over the years it has been represented by both the major parties. The years 1951 to 1971 saw a large part of it represented by the Hon. Ray Connell, former minister of Public Works, and yet another part of the riding was held by the late T. B. McQuesten, who served the province so ably as Highways Minister back in the Hepburn ministry.

I suppose one of the things I would like to speak to at this time is the decision by the Province of Ontario to move towards a home warranty programme. It is one that I think I have to commend and one that I think is long overdue.

Perhaps one of the most frustrating experiences I have had as a new member of this Legislature was to visit a young couple in my riding, who live in Freelon. They have taken on, I suppose at great risk, large mortgages, to embark upon the ownership of a house. They bought a brand-new house in one of the more modern type of subdivisions which we see throughout the province today. They bought it in good faith, I am sure, with the idea that they could live there and possibly raise children at some time.

I was called some time ago, I guess, to investigate the problem of water in their basement. When I was called upon, I had no idea that we would be in the position to examine 4 in. or 5 in. of water in their basement. After some examination we found that the house they had bought was built on an

artesian well. Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to share with you a report by Nyal E. Wilson and Associates, who did a report on the geotechnical conditions that have befallen these people as a result of their house being constructed on an artesian well, if you can believe it. Mr. Wilson, in his report of April 7, 1976, said:

The two-storey house with a full basement is located in an area with a thin cover of glacial till over bedrock. The terrain is gently sloping downwards towards the house and an adjacent ditch. The basement for this two-storey house is at a lower elevation than the basements for other surrounding houses.

It is understood that the local water supply comes from an artesian well in the subdivision. An artesian well by definition has water in the ground under pressure. The water seeping around and into the basement is clean water which is very cold. This indicates that it is water from the rock rather than ground water. The flow is excessive, many thousands of gallons per day, far in excess of the normal seepage into house basements. The small sump pump installed in a fruit cellar is barely able to cope with the pumping requirements. Reliability of the pump and/or a hydro failure provide a major concern.

In our opinion, the water which is clean and very cold is artesian well water from bedrock. It is likely that this flow will increase with time as the channels could have been widened by construction operations or blasting.

There is no simple remedy for this problem. A grout curtain around the house would be expensive and not fully reliable. Jacking the house is architecturally not feasible. It is recommended that the basement be abandoned and filled to a depth of 4 ft or 5 ft with stone and concrete. To provide alternative accommodation the existing garage should be winterized and converted into a furnace room, laundry room and recreation room. An additional garage could be built at the head of the driveway.

This situation is the worst that the writer has seen in a domestic house. As there does not appear to be a simple solution it is necessary to abandon the basement. The builder would be well advised to follow this procedure as continuous pumping is likely to cause a water shortage for the entire subdivision.

I suppose, very sadly, that would be indicative of the kind of situation which exists

not only in my constituency but in so many areas across the province. Some builders have been allowed to get away with pure, unadulterated murder and while it is easy for me to offer my sympathies to the people who live in this house, short of any legislation to effect the contrary, I am without any kind of solution for these people at the present time. I must tell members that it is a very sad thing to tell young people that a remedy really doesn't exist at this time. With this in mind I am appreciative of the direction finally taken by the Province of Ontario in coming in with some sort of warranty programme for people who buy houses.

In my speech in the Throne Speech debate earlier in the year I spoke on the need to improve the standards of our educational system. There are those, especially on the government side, who prefer to think that our declining educational system and standards are not a real problem at this time. One only has to take a cursory look at the current unemployment statistics to see that over half the number of people currently unemployed are young people. I sincerely feel that we may be turning out a generation of people who will be very poorly equipped to cope with the increased demands of labour in the not too distant future.

Those of us who are inclined to spend some time with teachers, parents and, more importantly, students realize a sense of frustration is building up in our educational system. Only last month, the director of education for the city of Hamilton, Mr. Ernest Hutton, stated, "The median of our grade 12 graduate is not the same standard as it was 10 or 12 years ago. The graduation diploma does not mean very much in Ontario today." Mr. Hutton further stated that students are unable to read as well as 10 or 12 years ago.

Mr. Moffatt: Is that the director?

Mr. Cunningham: That's the director. The chairman of the board of education, a good friend of mine, Mr. Tom Gallagher, was equally candid and correct when he seriously questioned the students' ability to write and express themselves. To this end, I would again recommend a return to the more basic courses in English, French and mathematics with **provincial-wide testing to be done on a uniform basis.** Only then can the teacher, the student and the parents know where the student is and where he or she can improve in the future. It might also afford us the opportunity of identifying students with learning disabilities or identifying the student who might be better suited to a different pro-

gramme, be it academic or technical in nature.

Possibly this kind of commonsense approach to our educational system would reduce the number of poorly qualified young people who are having such a difficult time finding meaningful employment. I am disturbed that we have not developed better methods of providing students with information as it would relate to higher levels of education and job opportunities.

A further problem we continue to ignore somewhat is the process by which we train our teachers, and I am sure many of our teachers who sit here in the Legislature would agree with me. Very few improvements, if any, have been made over the last 10 years.

Certainly we are going to have to bring our educational spending in line. I think some serious thought should be given to increasing the tuition fees at the university level for training those who will likely obtain a maximum benefit, such as doctors, lawyers, dentists, and so on. I find somewhat unacceptable that the average taxpayer in the Province of Ontario should be required to pay the high cost of educating these individuals.

One further thought on the subject of curriculum is the need, especially at the primary level, to place some greater emphasis on the study of Canadian history and Canadian government. And as well, some non-sectarian approach to dealing with the increasing number of contemporary moral problems that our children face with ever-increasing frequency in today's society. I'm sure that while many of us would say that this would be strictly a parental responsibility, we all realize that many parents are reluctant or not aware of the need.

I would be remiss if I did not address myself to the relationship that we have with our teachers. In a few isolated instances teachers have earned part of the disdain that is directed at them. But, for the most part, our teachers are a dedicated collection of professionals. I know, Mr. Speaker, that members of my party, at least, would prefer to treat teachers as professionals, and not as members of some local or union. Such a move is coming, I'm afraid, if we cannot manage to bring more common sense and fairness to our system of collective bargaining.

The taxpayers in my constituency will face the highest tax jump in history. It would be unfair to allow any blame to reside with the local politicians to any extent, or the civic administrators. The prob-

lem rests with the cost of regional government. A system of government that none of them asked for. The tax increase for the average home will be somewhere in the area of \$100, an increase of over \$150 in taxes, with no apparent increase in services in the last couple of years. And in many cases, the services have deteriorated very rapidly.

How is the record of spending in regionalized governments compared to those in the rest of the province? During the years 1970 to 1975, the increase in government spending in regionalized governments increased 159 per cent, as compared to only 65 per cent in the rest of the province. The increase in Metro was only 102 per cent. We all recognize the need possibly to restructure the old county systems of local government throughout the province, possibly the government would have been much better off if some more meaningful consultation had taken place at the local level.

In my particular area, all that we really required was a form of regional planning. The old analogy—Why buy a cow when all you want is the milk?—still holds true. And in the regional municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth we bought an entire dairy.

Mr. Peterson: Rent the cow.

Mr. Cunningham: Perhaps one of the most unfortunate ramifications of regional government in my area is the confusion that continues to exist in the minds of the average citizen about the various levels of responsibility. The confusion, coupled with the increase in municipal taxes, has led to a great sense of alienation and frustration.

You know, it wasn't that long ago that all the residents of my area received a rather expensive brochure compiled by an advertising agency. The president of the agency was a well-regarded and well-respected former minister of the government here. He made, I think, a rather desperate effort to try and sell the merits of the region through this elaborate brochure.

I'd like to say to you at this time, Mr. Speaker, that no matter how much money this government spends in my particular area, it will never sell the idea of regional government.

As one who attended the various meetings that were held to discuss or, more appropriately, listen to the various experts from Queen's Park, I must say that the rationale that was given for regional government has not been demonstrated to date. They spoke of better planning. To date, almost 2½ years later, there is no real plan.

The confusion that has taken place as a result of this is unbelievable. They spoke of reducing the competition between the various municipalities for industrial assessment. What they failed to appreciate was that in so many of the smaller towns and villages, they did not want industrial assessment under any circumstances.

One further reason given for the need for regional government was the need to save money. As you are no doubt aware, Mr. Speaker, the province provided a tremendous amount of start-up grants for the various regions. These decrease at a rate of 20 per cent per year.

It was just last week that I heard the conclusion of the budget contribution from the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. J. R. Smith). And for the information of the member for Hamilton Mountain, there was no duplication in services prior to Jan. 1, 1974. For his information, police services have deteriorated in the rural areas especially. The police, through no fault of their own, do not know the people of the towns and the villages, and naturally they do not enjoy the rapport that existed before. This is not an improvement in my view, or in the view of my constituents.

[9:00]

Was the member for Hamilton Mountain suggesting on May 25 that the various public utilities commissions have merged into one? You know, you only have to read the Hamilton Spectator to know that the PUC continues to operate in Dundas.

Planning is an area that not only is functioning efficiently but is also carrying on very well at the local level.

The member for Hamilton Mountain implied that taxes have gone down. This is simply not the case and he knows it. The only area where that ever was correct is where he stated that the cost of many services has shifted to the area municipalities.

I would like to share with the members of the House the words of the member for Hamilton Mountain dated May 25 wherein he said: "Mr. Speaker, we see now that the people within the region are sharing the cost of services. Other municipalities were undoubtedly not carrying their full weight before." Mr. Speaker, I want to say to you and possibly to the member, if he would read the record, that that is just a lot of pure unadulterated nonsense.

For the edification of the member and the Treasurer, I would suggest that the people of Wentworth North are not receiving any extra services from the region; in fact, those

services have decreased while the taxes, as I have stated, have continued to increase.

Notwithstanding all of this, these taxes are going up at an unhealthy rate. In many areas, I suppose, the people are paying twice, if you look at the cost of paying for the OPP and the cost of paying for a regional police service that you do not receive in a place like Greensville, Ont.

The ramifications of these increases have placed so many of the citizens in my riding in difficult straits, particularly the senior citizens and those on fixed incomes. When many of them retired, they never contemplated the kind of inflation that we have seen in Canada over the last five or six years—things that we have had very little control over. This, and the recent municipal tax increases, have seriously jeopardized their standard of living and their ability to continue to own their own home.

One of the reasons for the continued growth in the cost of operating all levels of government is the failure by elected representatives and officials to re-examine the various programmes and priorities that they have. A classic example of this would have to be the Ontario government's policy as it would relate to the establishment of the parkway belt.

For some time, I have questioned this concept and its related costs. Perhaps the aspect that disturbs me most, especially in a country like Canada, is the effect of the plan on the individual landowner.

In January of this year the Minister of Treasury, Economics, and Intergovernmental Affairs stated: "Some disruptions of lifestyle and individual plans and hopes is inevitable for some parkway belt landowners in an undertaking of this scope."

This has to be the understatement of the year. I am called probably twice a week by some land holder who wants to sever a lot off for his son or his daughter so that he can continue to work on the farm, or by somebody who has land that is really of no use for anything but residential construction. The difficulties these people encounter in trying to get a severance and in trying to obtain a building permit is truly sad indeed. In the areas that fall within the confines of the parkway belt, or even adjacent to it, it is difficult to build a garage without having to have four or five government people involved at several levels of government.

A farmer often has a tremendous time trying to separate a lot off for one of his children, or often to obtain the necessary revenue to expand his farm or even to continue

in existence. A builder must consult with the parkway belt people before he can erect even a sign to promote the development of his property. This kind of bureaucracy and the delays inherent in it are forcing many of our small builders out of business and I am sure that all members of the House would agree that this is the kind of trend that we don't want to continue in the Province of Ontario.

It is almost impossible for the average citizen to conduct any property dealings without the assistance of a skilled real estate lawyer. I think this adds tremendously to the cost of the development and the cost of an individual's property dealing.

To the residential builder and even the eventual homeowner, the myriad of delays that tend to occur are so very costly. Sometimes it takes as long as three years to grant approval, and the associated costs are tremendous. Naturally, the builder will want to build the most expensive type of home he can to try to recoup the loss on his three-year investment. One of my constituents has been trying for over a year and a half to get approval for an addition to his existing mobile home park.

The quality of the present development speaks for itself. The individuals involved were prepared to exceed all the normal requirements, especially in the area of sewage facilities. Now with the construction season upon us, as well as it being the time to sell such units, they are still awaiting approval.

Getting back to the costs associated with the parkway belt, Mr. Speaker. What kind of cost-benefit studies have been done to justify such an expense? By the Treasurer's (Mr. McKeough) own figures, we will have to spend in the area of \$500 million. Given that his figures are so often on the short side, we might expect to spend somewhere in the area of \$650 million by the time this programme is completed. Recently Mr. Peter Martin, the former executive co-ordinator of the Ontario Housing Action Programme, questioned the province's intention to create such a land reserve for future use.

Before I continue with several other areas, I would like to point out some of the difficulties we've had in relation to regional government and the duplication which would exist on the provincial level and the costs associated with it which so many of us, indirectly I suppose, are unable to perceive. A constituent in my riding, a former Tory—at least I think he's a former Tory—very kindly passed on to me some clippings he has taken note of which he entitled, "Positions

which appear to be in conflict with the jurisdiction of the regional municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth."

For the edification especially, I think, of the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. Auld) who will oversee these kinds of costs, I would like to share a few of these job applications which appeared in the Hamilton Spectator for positions which appear to be in conflict with what would strictly be a regional type of function, the cost of which will certainly be borne by the people of Ontario.

A release from the Ministry of the Environment in November, 1973, said,

A reorganization of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment has been scheduled for implementation April 1, 1974. Involved in restructuring is a major decentralization into six regions and the establishment of regional offices in the province's eastern central, west central, southwest, northeast and northwest regions.

Environment Minister James Auld explained the step that will bring the services branches closer to the people they serve.

Each regional director will be responsible for environmental protection and assessment of his area. He will also have responsibility for the operation of water and sewage treatment utilities in a region. The project co-ordinator will be responsible for new sewage or water treatment projects from inception to opening. A policy secretariat will deal with the analysis of ministry policies and plans as well as focusing on intergovernmental agreements like the Canada-Ontario agreement and the International Joint Commission.

Finally, there will be four major divisions—environmental planning assessment, field operations, utility and laboratory services, and finance administration.

On May 28, 1974, the Ontario public service advertised the following:

Manager, human resources development. Salary range \$20,500-\$25,800. [These are 1974 figures so they must be up considerably.] Duties: Will lead and co-ordinate the activities of a small staff in developing improved techniques in the utilization of human resources in local government and will provide technical support to regional offices of the ministry in promoting adoption of modern practices by local government in such areas as personnel planning, staff training, career development, personnel evaluation and labour relations.

That's wonderful. I think the person who wrote that is still around in Treasury, Econ-

omics and Intergovernmental Affairs. That individual is probably the same one who came up with that great phrase, net cash requirement.

The same advertisement requests local government advisers—plural; we don't know how many they want.

—salary range \$16,300-\$22,400. Duties: To undertake independently or as part of an interdisciplinary team project, studies and problem-solving assignments to assist municipalities and other local government agencies to improve their decision-making processes, including organizational structure, decision paths, management practices, resource utilization and information and control systems.

Engineers: operation officers; director of municipal finances for local areas; local environment officers; assessment officers; policy advisers in municipal affairs; ground-water technicians, all located in Hamilton. Operation officers, more local government officers, this time with a salary range of \$18,100 to \$24,900—same advertisement—a planning analyst, salary to \$22,200; regional nursing home supervisors to the regional government; air assessment officers; the list goes on.

In total—these are just the ads that we could find—there appear to be 29 executive positions open. I would think that they would all have to have secretaries and, of course, pursuant to that, typical of the fashion of the government of Ontario, appropriate support staff, administrative benefits and space. I would say that the cost of this must be absolutely, totally unbelievable.

This all goes, I think, to support the regional kind of system that we have today. I would say that that cost is borne by every taxpayer in the Province of Ontario, regardless of where they live. I would submit that it is totally out of hand that this government can say that regional government is working, and that it happens to be efficient. I think this is just not being truthful with the citizens of the Province of Ontario.

Only recently in a TEIGA publication that we received, the Treasurer of the Province of Ontario said—I think it was to the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce—and I quote:

Regional government has been less costly than many people believe, and where sharp increases in spending on taxes are evident, they have occurred for the most part for very good and understandable reasons.

I am not sure what that means. I haven't seen any justification as to why we should have such an increase in taxation, especially when we have had a constant decrease in services. But I know that statements like that, and the great public relations work that the ministry is doing, are not going to fool the people who ultimately have to pay for this kind of thing.

One further thing that I would like to put forward in this particular context, Mr. Speaker, is a policy that should be examined. That's the government's decision to shut down hospitals to save money. Notwithstanding the appeal by cabinet over the recent unanimous decision by the divisional court here in Toronto, the government should examine the entire philosophy.

None of us here would speak against the need for some general type of restraint programme in Ontario. Certainly, most taxpayers have had it. The Ministry of Health cannot exempt itself from the need to save money, but I would submit, Mr. Speaker, that closing existing hospitals is not the answer. People in those communities will continue to get sick. They will continue to require proper health care facilities. As citizens of the Province of Ontario, they are entitled to receive them. It is not the hospitals that are inefficient, it is the system in general.

We waste hundreds and hundreds of dollars a year in forms. I was told several weeks ago that the total administrative cost for the various forms we have is \$63 million, and I think that is a figure that I would like to see verified at some time, because I find it absolutely, totally unbelievable.

In many areas there is an abuse by the people who are not entitled to receive health care for lack of OHIP payments, and in many cases some people abuse their rights to treatment. Surely, the time has come to provide a more efficient delivery of our existing services, the quality of which few people would question here in the Province of Ontario.

I would suggest the province consider the use of a non-tamperable type of identity card. It might assist doctors in identifying OHIP holders, and at the same time could serve as a type of charge card and an aid in possibly the development of a one-write type of accounting and billing system. All patients would then be able to see that the doctor is not submitting improper or unnecessary invoices, while at the same time

the patient would know the value of the services obtained.

I think that's so very important today, Mr. Speaker, because so few of us who go to doctors and obtain the medical services we require, appreciate the cost of those services—because we rarely see that cost. Such a system, I submit, would aid greatly in a more efficient type of health care delivery system.

At the recent OMA meeting, the Premier (Mr. Davis) spoke about the possibility of a deterrent system. He mentioned that such a system has yet to be proved effective. Perhaps the time has come when we should examine the various systems that are currently operating. Basic economics would have it that when there is no price involved, consumption increases. I think our health care delivery system is no exception.

While I am talking about the health care system in the province, I should share with you, Mr. Speaker, my concern about the high cost of nursing home facilities in relation to the amount that our pensioners receive from both our federal and provincial governments.

One of my constituents has taken the time to do a rather detailed cost analysis, as it relates to increases in pension payments and the increase in nursing home costs. For instance in the 15 months between May, 1973 and July, 1974, one lady's pension increased \$22.04. During the same period of time, home costs increased \$52.70. The ramifications of this can be pretty far-reaching. I know that my fellow members would be interested in hearing this man's particular problem in his quest to see that his sister receives proper care at a fair cost.

[9:15]

I would like, very briefly, to share a letter sent to me, dated April 26:

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

I am writing in regard to the recent exorbitant increase requested by nursing homes, approximately \$3 per day or \$90 per month for a 30-day month, starting April, 1976.

In the case of my sister, who has been a resident of the downtown convalescent centre in Hamilton since January, 1973, she has been able to pay her way through her pension and GAINS and her low bank account. Up to now there has always been a cushion of between \$40 and \$50 per month leeway to prevent her account from being depleted. However, now that this

recent increase of \$90 per month has come, there is no longer a cushion so no doubt her account will eventually disappear.

This now means that I, her younger brother and presently her power of attorney, also a pensioner, will have to dip into my own bank account to pay for her keep in the home. This is not a good state of affairs as my savings are now going to become less.

Others, I assume, must be getting into the same boat, so to speak. The downtown convalescent centre advises us that the grant from the Ontario government has been cut off to them, thus causing their recent larger increase for resident up-keep. No doubt this, I assume, is a result of the hospital cutback programme to save money and reduce excess taxes to all of us.

I have some previous correspondence on this subject—copies enclosed for your review—which went to Mr. Graham of the Ontario government financial controls branch, Toronto, dated July 26, 1974; also drawing attention to the ever-widening gap between the pensioner and cost-of-living index in relation to increases requested by nursing homes.

I realize the provincial government must control costs and that nursing home costs are always going up. May I therefore suggest that the way most people are spending money on lotteries, especially now when more cash will be building up with the new five \$100,000 prizes in Wintario, that some of this reserve might be allotted to hospital and nursing homes to help in cases where need is required, as well as the grants now going to cultural groups only. Letters have been in the press re use of lottery reserves.

Half of the majority of those now residing in hospitals and homes have paid taxes all their lives and have helped to make the Province of Ontario one of the best and richest in our country. I would be pleased to have you investigate this idea and whatever could be considered to alleviate the trend of costs mentioned herein.

Mr. George S. Bell

I must thank Mr. Bell for his detailed cost analysis here, which I am going to pass on tomorrow to the Ministry of Health, and hopefully we might see some more fair and equitable solution to the problem of accommodation for senior citizens.

It's easy to see, Mr. Speaker, why so many of our senior citizens in the Province of Ontario are so bitter about situations like this. One situation which I know we all face as members, is the serious shortage of senior citizens' accommodation. All too often I think we're asked to try and help find decent accommodation for senior citizens, and we are confronted with long waiting lists.

Mr. Warner: It's getting worse.

Mr. Ziemba: Three dollars a day.

Mr. Cunningham: It may be.

How many times have we been in hospitals and seen a number of beds taken up by older people, who are not necessarily sick but rather have no place else to go. Their doctors, for reason of compassion, have managed to get them into a hospital; but they would be much better off and much better suited in a senior citizens type of facility, or at least in an extended care programme, the cost of which would be so much cheaper than those of our hospitals.

One of the more serious ramifications of the province's restraint programme is the effect of the cutbacks on the various community and social service agencies across the province. So many good programmes will have to be discontinued while many of the dedicated agency personnel will have to seek employment somewhere else.

Last month I received a letter a good friend of mine. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you that he's a Liberal; in fact he's the president of my riding association.

Mr. Warner: And also your friend.

Mr. Cunningham: He is also the president of the Children's Aid Society for Hamilton-Wentworth.

In his letter, which was distributed widely across the region—I know some members of the House got it—he indicated that due to the restraint programme the summer programme for children for which they have been responsible for some time will have to be discontinued. In his letter, Mr. Howard Hines, QC, said:

To the friends of the children:

In this year, 1976 we have found it necessary to delete summer programme planning from our government-funded operating budget. The 5.5 per cent increased limit in our revenue over 1975 as set out by the province does not allow for such programmes as the following: Attendance by many a needy child at a summer camp

away from the hot steamy city; participation in day-camp outings while still living at home; involvement in arts, in crafts programmes and nature hikes, swimming parties, family camp experiences where mothers and their children can get away for a well-deserved break from their second and third crowded rooming-houses.

To carry out such a programme in 1976 we must raise funds on our own so it is to you, our friends in the region who believe what we are trying to do for families and children, we now turn.

Last summer our programme cost approximately \$16,000. It was part of our operating budget approved by the province and the region and was offset by \$9,000 contributed by people like you. In our commitment to the province and the region we stated that we would endeavour to raise \$7,000 on our own if they would assume \$16,000 in the first instance. We are pleased to say that not only \$7,000 but \$9,153 was contributed by our membership and special donors such as you.

In this year we will not have the \$16,000 to begin with so we are really starting from scratch, as it were. Won't you please help us help them? A donation, either large or small, will enable us to provide something of lasting value to many a child and family. Cheques can be made payable to the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth, marked Summer Programme Fund. Receipts will be issued and may be used for income tax purposes.

On their behalf we say thank you.

Sincerely,

Howard Hines,
President.

I really can't say how disappointed I am that the province would have such a misplaced sense of priorities as it relates to children. The opportunity especially for those children who are disadvantaged and living in a city to spend some time away at a summer camp is a great one. Unfortunately, too many families, especially the single-parent families, cannot afford to send their children to anything but a public sponsored summer camp. I am sure that history will record a number of scrapes with the law for those who are ignored during their formative years.

Experience in Ontario's north can, in some small way, be of great assistance to a child growing up. It is a real shame that many children won't be enjoying the benefits so many of us were able to appreciate when we were younger.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure you will also recognize the likelihood of an increase in anti-social behaviour among those already involved in probation services at the current time. The current restraint programme will reduce the number of case workers and probation officers and thereby increase the number of cases for the remaining staff. Clearly, so many of them are overworked presently. The ramifications of this will be a serious deterioration of the service which exists at the present time at a time when we should be considering methods of improving that service. I fear that the money we may save now will be spent many times over in dealing with these young offenders. It is not just stupid; it is wrong.

I spoke in the Throne Speech debate earlier this year on the need to improve our method of dealing with labour disputes. It is truly unfortunate that our lack of emphasis on increased productivity is placing our competitive position in real jeopardy. As a Liberal, I am not sure that our purpose in the government is to redistribute existing wealth but rather to see that the pie itself is increased. The only way we can provide more is to earn more, to produce more, to become more productive.

All too often it appears that the goal of organized labour is to get whatever they can and not what they would, by way of merit, deserve through productivity. I would say that some of the gains we are seeing at the current time are illusory and short-term to say the least. Our challenge as legislators is to provide an orderly and equitable method of distribution.

When there is a failure in labour-management relations—that is to say when they are not co-operating—it is the role of government on behalf of society, not big business or big unions, to promote agreement. Clearly such a leadership role would reduce the number of strikes we see in Canada today. I am told that our record of labour unrest rivals or is beginning to rival that of Italy as the worst in the world.

There are a number of mechanisms which I think we should look to to help us provide methods of alleviating labour-management strife. As has been mentioned previously, we should actively encourage final offer selection as a method of settling disputes. We might further consider the development of labour courts, profit-sharing and greater worker participation in management positions.

I believe we are going to go through a period of time when our trade union leaders

will be able to demonstrate real leadership through responsibility. A failure here to recognize that role could seriously jeopardize or seriously limit the future credibility of labour union movements across this province and force not only Ontario but all Canada into the kind of polarized society that none of us would like to see.

As a former student of history, I would now like to express very briefly my concern about what I perceive to be a recent trend in the Province of Ontario; that is, the erosion of power and responsibility to the federal government.

During the last election in the Province of Ontario I detected on a number of occasions a desire by the Premier himself to blame Ottawa for the ills of the day. In some instances he was right. But all too often it smacked me as a clear and obvious attempt to abrogate our responsibilities as a government here in the Province of Ontario. The recent agreement signed by the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) to participate in the federal anti-inflation programme, without implementing a programme of our own here in the Province of Ontario, causes me to think that it is being done to provide an out for the Premier and his government. Everything becomes the responsibility of our federal government. If such were the case, I'm sure that our Fathers of Confederation would have made such provision.

Since the time of Oliver Mowat, Ontario's position has been one of leadership within the national scope. For whatever reason, be it geographical, numerical or its tremendous advantage in natural resources, this has been the role of the Province of Ontario. At no time during Oliver Mowat's 25-year tenure as Premier did he feel it was his function to abrogate what was constitutionally the responsibility of the Province of Ontario. I think we're going to have to cross that bridge in the near future, and I only hope the wisdom of the members of the House will prevail so that we can provide some sort of intelligent solution to a problem that I think was created by the lack of foresight by the Attorney General, possibly the Premier himself and certainly the Treasurer in this regard.

It's typical, I suppose, that we have seen as recently as in the debate this afternoon and over the last couple of weeks, with the hospital decision rendered by the divisional court here in the city of Toronto—and I would anticipate a decision rendered by the courts in the near future—that the Province of Ontario has not demonstrated very good planning. In fact, they have been somewhat

remiss and almost ignorant of the basic law that exists within our national scope; at the same time, I think they've been insensitive and somewhat intransigent to the needs of the people of Ontario.

I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that none of us in the Liberal Party are anxious to pass off any of the responsibilities that are charged directly to us as members of the Ontario Legislature. It's difficult to rationalize to people who want to receive increased social services—and so many of these services are required—or who are upset about our sense of priority as it would relate to the revenues we take in, to explain to them the position we are in as a result of the minority government situation. I think I would be remiss if I didn't say the Liberal Party here has made some effort, since Sept. 18, to make the situation work; from my point of view, it's just a sad experience that we have not seen greater co-operation—not only from the government in this province but, more significantly, from members of the official opposition, who I think might take less time to create a position of posture and more time to look at substance and serve the best interests of the people of Ontario.

The difficulty I think we're going to have within the next few months—

Interjection.

Mr. Cunningham: I'm sorry, I missed what the member for Local 1005 said.

Mr. Mackenzie: You can't make a virtue out of necessity.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, the difficulty we're going to have as members of this Legislature in the next little while, at least those of us on this side of the House, is to rationalize the waste that occurs in government in the sense of priorities, which I think we have to lay at the feet of the Premier.

It wasn't that long ago that we were passing estimates for our good friend, the hon. Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Henderson); and to tell you the truth, Mr. Speaker, I still don't know what he does. I'm still not aware of what those special functions are. But to spare the people of Ontario an unnecessary and, I suppose on our part, a difficult election to explain, we decided to grant the Minister of Government Services (Mrs. Scrivener) the necessary funds so that the good work of that minister can continue. I guess some of us appreciate what it is. Unfortunately, I have never had it articulated to me exactly what it is.

I must comment that I have a great deal of admiration for that minister. She sat there and she took a lot of pure, unadulterated guff from members like myself and my good friend, the member for Hamilton Centre, who I guess are sincerely concerned about this kind of expenditure. But really the person to blame for that whole exercise is the Premier himself. He would have the Minister of Government Services carry the responsibility for those two portfolios—one I happen to believe is a function we require; one I happen to think is one of the classic wastes of government that will go down in the history of Ontario. But, I guess, common sense prevailed and funds were granted to our good friend, the Minister without Portfolio, and his good work can continue.

[9:30]

But I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the side opposite, that at election time that will be just one of the very many examples that we in the opposition will use to demonstrate the sense of priorities that exists in this province, and I would tell you it's perverse.

No wonder the public of Ontario is getting cynical. We see and we can read the accounts in the Toronto Globe and Mail and in the other papers in the area of these annual meetings for the Progressive Conservative Party, which oddly enough, occur every three years. They've indicated they're going to have one in two years, which would mean that would be in six years. It's interesting to read that the members of that party themselves are requesting—and I'm sure very legitimately so—a more open type of government, and the kind of government that people can participate in.

If only they were exposed to this government on a daily basis. If only they could see the kind of perverse sense of priorities and the type of attitude that prevails around this place. I think it's been the design of the Premier of the province to continue as if he had 75 seats or 78 seats. I would suggest to the Premier that he'd better re-examine that sense of priorities that he has and that direction, because statistically 65 per cent of the people, rejected the Premier of the province. Smug as he may want to be, and as smug as some of his ministers would like to be, I would remind them that I doubt that position has changed significantly.

Hon. B. Stephenson: We will never be as smug as you.

Mr. Cunningham: Oh, I would say, with respect, that I am not smug. Not in any

way. In fact, people in my area, especially the ones at Chedoke Hospital—a facility that the minister is very familiar with as a result of the tremendous planning that took place within the Ministry of Health to shut that facility down—realize the last thing I am is smug.

In fact, I think they're very appreciative of the efforts of myself and the member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans), who were the only ones, I would say, in the area affected by that hospital, notwithstanding the fact that the hospital wasn't in our riding but serves our ridings, who took an active interest on behalf of those people. This was despite the fact that we didn't receive the kind of information the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) received three weeks before we found out anything.

To say that I would be smug on their behalf I think would be an insult, not only to them but to other people within the area who tend to favour my point of view, be it that of a Liberal or one who in fact tries, from time to time, to demonstrate some common sense—which I would say to the Minister of Labour would be something her government would do well to demonstrate. This is a principle that hasn't been demonstrated to me—

Mr. Edighoffer: A lot of former Tories around.

Mr. Cunningham: —be it through regional government, or the indiscriminate closings of hospitals, or the senseless—and I mean senseless—type of educational system. It is a system that will turn out a whole generation of second-raters, if it continues. If that's the government's idea of good planning, well then I would invite the minister—

Hon. B. Stephenson: Are you including yourself in that group?

Mr. Cunningham: I certainly am not. I think my participation here, as a member who is under the age of 30, would clearly indicate the results of my hard work and endeavours.

Hon. B. Stephenson: That is not smug at all.

Mr. Cunningham: It certainly is not as a result of the educational system. As an ordinary taxpayer, my mother couldn't afford to send me to a private school. I was forced to go to a local school, albeit one of the better schools in the area. But it is certainly not the kind of educational system—

Hon. B. Stephenson: Join the club.

Mr. Martel: He is not oriented, that fellow.

Mr. Cunningham: —not the kind of educational system that we—

Mr. Warner: You're not serious.

Mr. Cunningham: —require people to see in these—

Mr. Martel: One of the better schools.

Mr. Warner: He is not serious. He couldn't be.

Mr. Cunningham: I hear something from the northern members. You know, they should be the last ones to interject in this regard on the subject of education. I think it is their area that is the most poorly treated area in the Province of Ontario in that regard. I think if we implemented a provincial standard of education—

Mr. Ruston: They have to send all their teachers as representatives here.

Hon. B. Stephenson: That's why all the teachers are down here.

Mr. Breithaupt: The better ones.

Mr. Cunningham: If we implemented a provincial system of education and implemented some form of measurement—

Mr. Martel: They are more sophisticated and they are tired of the nonsense.

Mr. Cunningham: —I would suggest that the statistics would bear out that the products of that system would, in fact, be inferior—and by no fault of their own, Madam Minister. And nobody on this side of the House, I would say, would endorse that kind of thing.

Mr. Peterson: The problem with the north is that those guys teach them.

Mr. Cunningham: I won't engage with the minister as a fellow rookie member of this Legislature. She is certainly one who is much more experienced—

Mr. Gregory: What a difference in rookies!

Mr. Cunningham: —in matters of general health; although maybe not in common sense, as demonstrated by some of the statements that have come out from her ministry. But I would say to fellow members of the Legislature that I appreciate

their indulgence and I appreciate being able to participate in the debate at this time. Thank you.

Mr. Mancini: There lies the example of sophistication in the north.

Mr. McCague: I would like again to congratulate the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and you who are in the chair at this moment—the deputy chairman of the committee of the whole House—for the impartial way in which you are conducting the affairs of this house. I have heard today, although not in this House, from a couple of members of the NDP that they are considering asking the member for Nipigon for his resignation as Deputy Speaker because he is too impartial.

Since my election in the great riding of Dufferin-Simcoe I was determined as a new member to observe government in action and the procedure used in this Legislature.

Mr. Peterson: Where did you get that tie, George?

Mr. Warner: When does the action start?

Mr. Lane: There they go.

Mr. McCague: Unlike some of those I hear at this moment, I was prepared to listen more than speak—to be more of a learner than a participant. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that this approach was not out of any reluctance to participate in debate, to voice the concern to my constituents or to challenge the headstrong points put forward by members opposite.

I decided to listen rather than to speak because I wanted to voice my views on public policy issues in a careful and thoughtful manner; to speak from an appreciation of the facts rather than make the facts dance on the pins of preconceived notions and fanciful abstractions far removed from the realities and the basic concerns of the citizens of this province.

Mr. Mackenzie: You're leaving the Conservative Party?

Mr. McCague: On this occasion, I am most happy to present my observations and to put on the public record my views regarding the budget which was presented early last month.

While I am willing to concede a certain fascination with the torrent of words uttered by the NDP speakers, I have carefully sifted again and again their remarks for specific, useful and practical solutions to the many challenges which this government faces in economic and social terms.

Mr. Norton: Don't hold your breath.

Mr. McCague: My hunting expedition yielded few specific and practical proposals. Like the observer viewing the beauty of the torrent of Niagara Falls for the first time, the initial fascination of the observer is ultimately replaced by an increasing boredom which yields little fruitful and productive thinking on the challenges which confront us.

Mr. Lane: That's the NDP all right.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Touché.

Mr. McCague: As a politician who is constantly searching for good ideas which can help all of us to resolve some of the basic economic and social concerns with which we are now faced and some of the new ones which will lie ahead my search has yielded few useful ideas which can be applied, particularly at the government level.

Therefore, I have become a full-scale participant in this budget debate because boredom has replaced fascination with the NDP's barrage of words, in many instances meaningless and irrelevant to the existing realities in Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Mackenzie: I'm sure you've got some specifics coming.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The member for Dufferin-Simcoe has the floor.

Mr. McCague: One of the constant themes and specific words used by the members of the official opposition is the word "cutback." The term cutback occurs again and again in their criticisms of this government. I say to myself, "How is it that budgetary limitations, whether it be an eight per cent limit for municipal services or a 5.5 limit for social services, are automatically termed cutbacks when more money is given to be spent in this fiscal—"

Mr. McClellan: Ask the Children's Aid Society.

Mr. Mackenzie: Where did you learn your arithmetic?

Mr. McCague: "—year on these services than was spent during the past fiscal year?"

As my good friend, the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. Johnson) said, in his remarks made during the Throne Speech debate, "an increase cannot be considered a decrease."

Mr. Warner: We didn't get an increase in Scarborough.

Mr. McCague: The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) states that we must act in a responsible and reasonable way in restraining public expenditures, yet there is little attention paid by his followers in concentrating upon this theme. In fact, they have gone off in opposite directions. Is it a sign of less than effective co-ordination in their outlook and their actions? I take his reasonable approach and for the moment concede that a limit on public funds would be termed a cutback. If it does not match the rate of inflation, now raging at a little under 10 per cent, at the same time he must understand that if you restrain public expenditures then those public moneys cannot always match the rate of inflation. If you refuse to accept that line of thinking, you can never accept the possibility, let alone the reality, that government spending is the principal cause of inflation.

Mr. Norton: They like fighting forest fires with more wood.

Mr. McCague: Judging from the comments of NDP speakers, I can only conclude that very few, if any of them, accept the basic premise that the level of government spending, and the government itself, is the prime agent of inflation. The overwhelming and classic evidence of this type of spending is greatly illuminated in the proposals made by the member for Beaches-Woodbine in her expedition of seeking out new and vulnerable groups for heavy-handed and arbitrary NDP taxation.

Mr. McClellan: Corporations are vulnerable groups?

Mr. Martel: Like people on OHIP?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McCague: That is the bear trap into which the official leader and his New Democrats have fallen and perhaps from which they cannot extricate themselves. That explains to a great extent the failure of the Keynesian system of economics when you have both unemployment and high inflation.

Mr. Bain: Are you a Galbraith supporter?

Mr. McCague: The challenge facing our government today is to return to a more conservative type of public budgeting. Undoubtedly all the governments in the western world are facing the same problem, including this one.

Mr. Breithaupt: Like a \$2 billion deficit.

Mr. McCague: This is a fact of life that the NDP resolutely refuses to face at any

cost. Even economists of the New Democratic left acknowledge the quandary of their situation. When the NDP leader speaks of fundamental division between Progressive Conservative and New Democratic philosophy, he is recognizing reality. I congratulate him and some of his followers for this perception.

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. members give the member for Dufferin-Simcoe the courtesy that he may continue his remarks?

Mr. McCague: What he needs to add is that, as a committed socialist, he finds himself on the horns of a great dilemma—financing the growth of big government without having the real means of doing so. Real economic growth be damned. Higher government expenditures must be committed to expand government into every facet of our lives because, according to the NDP philosophy, only government has all the answers to each and every whim of our citizenry. Spend your way to prosperity and mortgage your children's future for today's wants.

Mr. Martel: You tried that last year.

Mr. Peterson: Why don't you pick on the Liberals now, George? They have had enough.

Mr. McCague: I shall save a very little for the third party.

Mr. Gregory: That's about right.

Mr. McCague: Back in the depression of the 1930s, President Roosevelt had in part the answer to get the world out of the great depression from which we were suffering, but in the 1970s we do not face the same set of economic and social circumstances. The same old answers and tried formulae do not apply as the NDP would like to think they do. Their problem is that they are fixed in a time lock, forever wedded to the concept of internal expansion of government. May I note, Mr. Speaker, the NDP is extremely sensitive to being labelled the party of big government; the real truth often hurts, but it must still emerge.

It is true that in this minority government circumstance there are deep and fundamental divisions which constitute differences in philosophy and differences in governing style between New Democrats and ourselves. Today, I want to set out some of these basic philosophical differences, which have led this government to the practical decisions it has made on public budgeting and which can be found in the budget.

The leading achievement of the 1976 budget is the practical implementation of our provincial restraint programme as a supplementary and parallel reinforcement to the national anti-inflation programme. For the past three years, Canadians have suffered from the impact and side-effects of double-digit inflation. Regardless of income, social position, occupation, profession, age or sex, everybody in Ontario has suffered from the ravages of inflation. If members opposite care to reflect back to some two years ago, they will instantly recall the request of the Premier of this province to the federal government to convene a national conference of the Prime Minister and the 10 provincial Premiers to deal with the impact of that inflation.

[9:45]

If memory serves them correctly, they should also recall that the response was an outright rejection by the Trudeau government. Following on the heels of that request, a federal election resulted from the defeat of the federal minority government's budget. During that election the Trudeau Liberals rejected outright the common sense proposal of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada to bring about a practical, economic control programme. That constructive proposal was viciously attacked by the Liberal Party as a means of freezing people's incomes. They argued up and down the roads and streets of Canada that inflation was an international phenomenon beyond the control of Canadians and, I might add, that it would go away very quickly.

What happened? The federal Liberals won control of power in Ottawa and waited and waited for inflation to worsen. In the long run, the federal Liberals contradicted themselves outright by announcing, last Thanksgiving Day, that a new national economic controls programme was being put into place to reduce the pressures of inflation.

Mr. Haggerty: Your leader endorsed it.

Interjection.

Mr. McCague: Finally, the federal Liberals had come to their senses.

An hon. member: That's the Liberal freeze.

Mr. McCague: They had to do something to bring inflation under some reasonable degree of control. Canada has experienced these controls for the past six months.

Mr. Mancini: Have you given some thought to regional government?

Mr. McCague: What have been their specific results? I think it would be too early to make definite conclusions about their impact. Certainly, they have momentarily watered down the expectations of many Canadians. For the first time in many months we have seen some modification in the ever-upward spiralling trend of the consumer price index.

Mr. Good: Good government.

Mr. McCague: While this government has certain reservations about the ongoing administration of the anti-inflation programme, Ontario continues to support the goals and projects of the federal anti-inflation programme. That is why the 1976 Ontario budget is an outstanding document for it comes to grips with the No. 1 objective of economic policy, namely, reducing the rate of inflation.

Ontario's New Democrats and their national counterparts continue to delay and to obstruct this leading goal of economic policy for Canada.

Mr. Warner: It's called fighting back.

Interjections.

Mr. McCague: While it may be somewhat unfair to categorize them as the champions of even greater inflation, even the most casual of observers is hard pressed to figure out exactly what the policy of the New Democrats is at this precise moment.

An hon. member: They don't know either.

Mr. Warner: Tell us about unemployment now. Tell us about jobs.

Interjections.

Mr. McCague: They who fervently depend on the interest of those on low and fixed incomes seem to be oblivious to the side-effects which this very rate of inflation is having on these groups. In policy terms it would appear to be a basic unwillingness to come to grips with the challenge of inflation.

New Democrats appear to believe that, like rape, inflation is inevitable. We might as well enjoy it by indexing it. We might as well accept it by bargaining for wage and salary increases in the 25 per cent to 70 per cent range. It is good for all of us. Is that what the casual observer of politics might ultimately conclude about the position of the NDP on double digit inflation?

Mr. Warner: This is written by Lewis Carroll.

Mr. McCague: While indexing of pension plans and the like has certain merits over the

short-term, it is a policy device essentially designed for not coming to grips with the real issues of inflation, namely, the wholesale printing of money and the Johnny-come-lately approach of the federal Liberals to the concept of income and price controls.

Mr. Warner: Tell us about the \$2 billion debt.

Mr. McCague: Ontario's 1976 budget represents the essence of reasonable, balanced and responsible restraint programmes. Contrary to the claims of opposition parties, a 10.4 per cent limit on public spending does not ignore the real social needs of Ontario citizens. For example, in their attacks on this government's attempts to bring some reasonable degree of spending control over the health care delivery system—

Mr. Kennedy: Doesn't grow on trees.

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McCague: —by more efficient and rational use of hospital beds. Their sole rationale for keeping community hospitals open is that these institutions employ such and such numbers of staff.

Mr. Ferrier: They provided services for the people of Guelph.

Mr. McCague: In other words, the opposition's tack is that you can never close community hospitals for any reason because people are gainfully employed in such institutions.

Mr. Bain: Why did you not close North-eastern? You only built it a few years ago; why did you build it if it wasn't needed?

Mr. Warner: No respect for the courts.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. McCague: They portray this government's restraint efforts in this direction as heartless and inhumane for the employees of these institutions and the general economic and social welfare of the communities involved. If the sole purpose of any community hospital is to remain open simply for the employment of people then they have no concern for the ordinary taxpayer's public dollar used in keeping that hospital open.

Mr. Mancini: Not one of those hospitals was empty.

Mr. McCague: The NDP attacks this government for increasing the premiums under

the Ontario Hospital Insurance Plan. Again, they conveniently ignore that there has been no increase in these premiums for either a single or family situation for the past five years. They conveniently ignore the fact that OHIP premium assistance has been broadened to cover single persons having taxable income of \$1,534 or less and to families having taxable incomes of \$2,000 or less.

Mr. Bain: How generous. That's below the poverty line.

Mr. McCague: As the budget points out, this additional premium assistance increases the number of people who receive partly free or subsidized OHIP coverage to about 1.8 million. Yet, on the other hand, Mr. Speaker, the same people advocate the use of public funds to conduct—

Mr. Germa: Wrong, wrong.

Interjections.

Mr. McCague: —an inquiry into the physicians' use of OHIP. Again evidently, the NDP want it both ways.

Incidentally Mr. Speaker, the former NDP government in British Columbia was not very averse to imposing extra fees on the automobile users of that province to pay off the huge deficit that resulted from the operations of the insurance corporation of British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Don't mention that.

Mr. McCague: But, as we have already seen, you must never mention how the NDP operated the government of that province or the other two western provinces.

Mr. Bain: Fine governments.

Mr. Lane: Great insurance.

Mr. McCague: The opposition parties have consistently portrayed themselves to the voting public as the paragons of fiscal restraint. They argue that the deficit of the Ontario government is too large, yet when attempts are made to reduce that very deficit they are portrayed as cutbacks.

Mr. Haggerty: You haven't reduced it.

Mr. McCague: So, you end up with a situation whereby the opposition parties want the deficit reduced, or entirely wiped out, but on the same wavelength they are advocating new sources of potential revenue to be tapped.

An hon. member: They don't know whether they are coming or going.

Mr. Warner: Who created the deficit?

Mr. McCague: Particularly is this true for the NDP. I just cannot fathom how they manage to voice the two positions simultaneously.

Interjections.

Mr. Gregory: Whatever happened to that government out in BC?

Mr. McCague: A year ago, when I was not a member of this Legislature, the third party of this House attacked the rationale and the provision for the first time home buyers' grant. Members of the third party agreed that this grant was the practice of cynical politics, or simply another give-away programme.

Interjections.

Mr. Warner: Yes, didn't work did it?

Mr. McCague: Why is it then, Mr. Speaker, that over 90,000 applications were received and approved under this programme? Why is it that members of the third party particularly went to all lengths to ensure that their constituents were eligible for this programme? Why is it that we now have 90,000 new homes in this province and indirectly a large number of places now available for rental accommodation to newcomers?

Mr. Breithaupt: We don't have one more new home.

Mr. McCague. Presumably, as on so many occasions, Liberal member were simply confused about their party's position on this matter. It is much more understandable for the NDP to support this programme only reluctantly, because they do not want to be regarded by the voting public as opposed to home ownership.

I cite the reaction of the opposition parties on this particular programme in order to illustrate the complete bankruptcy of their housing policies. They attack this government for helping people to acquire new and old homes, and yet grill the Housing Minister in the resources development committee on the Housing Ministry's estimates for shortcomings and not helping to get more housing on the market.

Mr. Warner: He admitted there isn't enough affordable housing.

Mr. McCague: Ontario's 1976 budget is a model document in several other respects;

while the federal government persists in its commitment to expand the total number of public servants in the federal bureaucracy, Ontario has daringly launched a reverse process.

Mr. Haggerty: But they've increased the contract workers.

Mr. McCague: I think that is a significant achievement in not only reducing the staffing of the public service system but in attempting to ensure a great productivity and efficiency on the part of all public servants.

I believe that it would be wise to proceed even further down this path by developing a system of incentives for public servants related to their job efficiency within the overall context of public service bargaining. That would be a terribly difficult job, but I believe an essentially significant one for truly ensuring the maximum value of each public dollar expended and for each public servant hired.

A modest proposal will immediately be perceived by New Democrats as anti-labour. In fact, the direct opposite conclusion can be made, for the purpose of such a proposed measure is to improve overall on-the-job morale and to instil a greater sense of purpose into the operation of Ontario's public service through ongoing negotiations between the Ontario Public Service Employees' Union representatives and representatives of the Management Board. I think that such a proposal could be enshrined within any settlement reached with any particular level of employees.

Ontario's budget is noteworthy for its vital and realistic assistance to small business. As a businessman, I understand the necessity for tax cuts that can lead to new jobs and maintain existing ones.

Mr. Warner: You bet you didn't. When do we get to the serious stuff?

Mr. McCague: In the coming decade, intense competition will result from scarcer and scarcer capital resources in developing the necessary infrastructure for Canada to maintain both its domestic and international economic health. Two of the larger financing projects that can be cited in this context are the Syncrude operation in Alberta and the necessity to construct a natural gas pipeline down the Mackenzie Delta.

What concerns me greatly is the recent report issued by the securities and stock research firm of Touche Ross and Co. The basic outline of this report warns business, labour and government that a severe finan-

cial crisis is looming on the horizon for a number of Canadian industries. I just want to quote a brief section from that report which puts into question many of the policy premises shared by the two opposition parties, and to a lesser extent by this government. To quote:

The weakened financial position of business resulting from erosions of capital and present levels of earnings raises serious questions about its ability to meet the expectations of the economy during the next few years. Even if inflation is stopped, the considerable damage caused during the past four years will severely handicap business during the next decade.

This study proceeds to illustrate the mounting debt position of Canadian companies as evidenced by their inability to keep up with the cost of inflation. Although capital assets are shown in the books of industry at \$94 billion; it is calculated that it would take about \$150 billion to replace them. In other words, the report points out an additional \$56 billion, not indicated in companies' balance sheets, would be needed to replace capital at 1974 levels.

That is an alarming situation, not because one report graphically illustrates the problem of developing new sources of capital to finance present and future industrial projects, but because the trend toward ever-massive government intervention becomes the logical sequence in this series of events.

We do not have to accept the views of this report as to the looming capital shortage just down the road. Even critics of the Mackenzie Delta pipeline have acknowledged that a minimum of \$5 billion and probably \$7 billion would be required to finance the largest capital project ever undertaken in Canada. So I believe it is essential that Ontario work with the federal government in creation of venture investment corporations. The supply of risk capital to small business is already too low. We need the venture investment corporation concept as a strong incentive in the development of small business. Lest we forget the role of small business in the development of this country, the small businessman has, by and large, created at least 40 per cent of the total number of employment opportunities available to Ontario and Canadian citizens.

[10:00]

If the Touche Ross study is a fair indicator of the economic problems facing Can-

ada in the next decade, it will tax all the ingenuity and energy of New Democrats to re-examine their basic philosophy of greater government involvement and intervention in the Ontario and, indirectly, the Canadian economies. If there is a capital shortage—even the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) has acknowledged there is a problem—and a problem exists in trying to persuade Canadians to invest in their own enterprise system, then the challenge of income redistribution becomes almost insurmountable.

We are experiencing the symptoms of that problem in 1976. We cannot get blood from a rock. New investment capital is the great generator of social progress. In turn, a healthy investment climate produces new wealth. When you have such an ongoing process government can, through a series of innovative tax measures, help ensure that a more equitable and fair system of redistribution results.

The great dilemma facing the NDP could be characterized by this question: How can you redistribute income when the process of creating new wealth is stifled so effectively as to end up by shrinking the economic pie? Or at what precise point in time and at what level of taxation do you end up killing the golden goose—or geese as the case may be—which produced and generated the new wealth?

Already, mounting evidence suggests that this is a real problem facing the Social Democratic government of Sweden. At present, the Swedish taxation system stipulates that self-employed people such as farmers, writers and artists must not only pay income tax but also an employer's tax. The result is that self-employed people with high incomes can pay almost 100 per cent of their earnings in taxes. The social effect created by such an absurd taxation system forces many working people into taking a—

Mr. McClellan: How come they have been in office for 45 years?

Mr. McCague: —part-time or second job, accepting only cash for their work because they do not want to declare the extra money on their income tax returns. Taxation in Sweden has reached saturation point and pay raises are virtually wiped out by the high rate of tax.

Mr. Warner: Did you take part in the budget debate over there?

Mr. McCague: Instead of having a voluntary tax assessment system with all its im-

perfections, as is now operated in Canada, we end up with a widespread tax revolt on our hands. One does not have to guesstimate in figuring out the total impact of such a tax approach on our whole way of life. Whether or not the NDP has listened very carefully to this analysis it is imperative that it re-thinks its system of socialism as it applies to its existing system of economic incentives—

Mr. Davison: Someone needs an analysis.

Mr. McCague: —and our tax system. I realize the NDP members are very slow learners when it comes to basic economics.

Mr. Bain: At least we don't give contracts to our friends.

Mr. McCague: However, where there is a will, there has to be a way.

Mr. Lane: Sometimes you never learn at all.

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

An hon. member: Most of them are teachers. They should be able to learn.

Interjection.

Mr. McCague: However, where there is a will, there is a way yet I fear their prospects are minimal at best.

Their basic inability to rethink the implications of ever-growing involvement, regulation and intervention in an already circumscribed free market system is best illustrated in a recent plan presented by the Manitoba Premier, Mr. Schreyer. Rather than being accused of taking his remarks out of context I want to quote the specifics of the Schreyer plan to redistribute income in Canada. He has stated:

What I mean to say is, the only thing that really makes a good standard measure in this context is that a top man's salary should be only 2.5 times the national average wage and I am talking about take home pay. So if the national average is close to \$10,000, we are saying that a company president should take home \$25,000. That means a gross salary of over \$30,000.

Mr. Warner: Best thing you have said all night. Let's have a vote on it.

Mr. McCague: Remember, I'm still quoting Mr. Schreyer, and I don't see anything wrong with the differential as wide as \$10,000 to \$30,000.

Further on he elaborates:

But I do regard that objective as socially desirable and as one of the ways of obtaining greater co-operation in the operation of a modern economy. It could happen in a generation; I would like to speculate on that.

What the Manitoba Premier was referring to was that the ultimate objective of the NDP governments, provincially or nationally, must be to ensure total equality of income, irrespective of a man's job. If there ever was a prescription for killing the private enterprise system, then the Schreyer approach is unequal to any socialist plan of income redistribution which I have ever come across. The whole thing is mind-boggling, to say the least.

Mr. Warner: I didn't expect you to understand.

Mr. McCague: What it infers is that overall mediocrity must replace excellence in the performance of a job.

Mr. Bain: You haven't a thesaurus; you have a lexicon of platitudes.

Mr. McCague: The Schreyer plan means that people on a low income scale would, forever and a day, be robbed of the real opportunity to move up to a higher income level through hard work and application.

Mr. Warner: You guys are endangering the economy.

Mr. McCague: NDP governments would dictate the rate of investment return or prescribe what would constitute a fair return on the use of money and the effort in the development of any new business enterprise. Little incentive would remain for the miner or the policeman—

Mr. Martel: You control wages now.

Mr. McCague: —to try to become something a little better if he so desired. What I fail to understand is why the NDP government of Saskatchewan failed to adopt the Schreyer proposal to income redistribution in the latest retroactive wage increase which they awarded to their loyal followers just recently.

Mr. Warner: You like to run every province.

Mr. McCague: And that makes me curious—

Mr. Warner: When do we get to Nova Scotia?

Mr. McCague: —in wondering why the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) has forgotten about the Schreyer application for his oft-repeated proposal that members of this Legislature should be receiving up to \$36,000 per year.

Mr. Hodgson: The member for Sudbury East advocates that too.

Mr. McCague: How on earth, Mr. Speaker, would any of these standard NDP approaches in the long run improve the real prosperity of Canadians?

The NDP portrays itself as a paragon of financial restraints and at the same time practises financial extravagances beyond belief. All you have to do is look at the record of one of the defeated and two existing NDP governments in western Canada.

Mr. Warner: When are you going to get to this province?

Mr. McCague: The NDP works in strange ways. Honoured as the new official opposition, the NDP is desperately trying to put forward its best step in relation to the business community of this province. NDP members and followers are busily engaged in wooing boards of trade, the Investment Dealers Association of Canada and small business. They are saying, over and over, that they are the only reasonable alternative to the present government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the hon. member for Sudbury East put his feet down off the desk, please?

Mr. McCague: They have suddenly discovered the virtues of championing the whole business community. If it weren't awfully dangerously misleading, Mr. Speaker, I would find their exercise somewhat amusing. They are secretly hoping that members of the business community will not look too far nor probe too deeply into the recesses of NDP policy.

The latest champion of small business is the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip). Through regulation and greater intervention in the economy, that member is seriously proposing legislation which would prohibit the major oil companies from participating in the retail service station business. He wants to prevent what might be called the vertical integration phenomenon of agriculture. He wants to replace limited competition in this field, and at the same time protect businesses which do not succeed because of poor business judgement.

In providing greater self-protection for such a group, the Canadian consumer ulti-

mately pays a higher price for its petroleum products. Government regulation becomes the arbiter of successful business; profits become a secondary consideration, if that.

I have talked to many small businessmen in my riding and have pointed out an NDP government in Ontario simply wants to accelerate the process of making government the dominant actor in the triangular relationship of business, labour and government. I have pointed out to them that their Progressive Conservative government is making every effort to reduce the incidence of government regulation and control; of attempting to reduce bureaucratic roles, without affecting vital public and human services. As I have said before, the NDP simply cannot comprehend the basics of our private enterprise system.

I listened with considerable interest to the speakers in their promotion of an energy policy. They ridiculed this government's attempts to make constructive and responsible proposals regarding energy pricing in Canada.

Mr. Warner: Will you explain what happened to the \$100 million?

Mr. McCague: They attacked their favourite corporate villain—in this case, Imperial Oil—by proposing that public ownership is a sudden, magical and overnight solution to energy pricing in Canada. Now we have Petrocan, but this superstate oil agency to be has not as yet found any new vast sources of energy. Look at the performance of the Italian state-owned oil operation. If public ownership of oil and natural gas is such a wonderful concept, how come the Italian economy isn't prospering more than it is with such a state-owned agency?

Mr. Davison: Around the world in 40 minutes.

Mr. McCague: If we assume, as the member for Beaches-Woodbine correctly phrases it, that energy is the lifeblood of the Canadian economy, then we are surely headed for a strangulation of the life-supporting system should we proceed with the NDP proposal to rationalize—to nationalize Imperial Oil.

Mr. Bain: Rationalize is right.

Mr. McCague: Thank you.

Instead of increased exploration activities, future energy supply would be predicated on a flow of bureaucratic directives and a whirlwind of red tape. Of course, it will take a lot of red tape and memoranda to heat an Ontarian's home and to serve as a logical substitute for the scarcity of oil or natural gas.

I trust that the NDP will undertake immediately an agonizing reappraisal of their socialist convictions. I would recommend that the removal of their blinkers would help in bringing them around to exercising common sense in the solution of economic and social problems.

Mr. Davison: At least we are not worried.

Mr. Warner: Which defeated member left you his speech?

Mr. McCague: I am not asking them to forgo their socialist principles, rather just to face the facts and try to understand that their trust in the capacity of the public sector to provide all the answers to our problems is sadly misplaced.

Mr. Martel: The Liberals have all gone home.

Hon. Mr. Snow: The member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. Spence) is over there.

I see my Liberal friends couldn't wait—

Mr. McCague: As for them, I am beginning to wonder if they have gone beyond redemption in terms of policy. I can recall that, during the past election, land-use controls of any kind constituted a sort of threatening dictatorship against the institution of private property.

The member for Grey (Mr. McKessock) questioned the existence of the Niagara Escarpment Commission and distorted beyond all reason the goals of that body. Yet his colleague from Kent-Elgin has continued to propose a land-use scheme for the whole of Ontario. Furthermore his own leader has suggested that possibly selective freezes are required to halt what the Liberals claim is a declining acreage of productive food land.

To make any sense of these contradictory and inconsistent approaches is impossible. I can also recall, during the past election, the member for Grey constantly criticizing the need for a beef-calf income stabilization programme. Yet in the first session of this Parliament he was one of the first people to request of the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) that the programme be extended beyond its close-off date. Other colleagues of his have argued for a voluntary farm income stabilization programme.

We in this party believe that a combination of preserving productive farm land through local municipal zoning bylaws and a well coordinated, voluntary farm income stabilization programme, are the keys to maintaining a healthy agricultural industry throughout Ontario.

Mr. Mancini: You set up regional governments because you believe that.

Mr. McCague: Within the next period of time, I can assure my friends opposite, we intend to carry out both of those proposals.

It's very interesting Mr. Speaker, that the members of the third party should abandon ship at the first signs of turbulence.

Mr. Foulds: Right—and joining you.

Mr. McCague: Or let's call it a divorce of convenience, the alimony for which will be a long-term debt. I am sure the electorate must be very impressed with a party that calls itself Liberal—

Mr. Mancini: Who lost a third of their seats?

Mr. McCague: —and yet in uncertain times chooses to sever, or would lead us to believe so, any connection with the governing party of Canada.

There are many other vital issues about which I would like to place my views on the public record.

[10:15]

Mr. Mancini: Are you moving down to the front?

Mr. McCague: One of these involves the NDP myth that the budget is a direct attempt to shift the taxation burden from the province to the municipal level of government. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Interjections.

Mr. McCague: For years the Ontario property tax credit and other related tax credits have helped to remove some of the regressive nature of the property tax system. In using the term regressive, however, I do not fully accept the interpretation of the regressive impact which the NDP constantly ascribes to property taxes. In fact, a recent University of Toronto study of the regressive impact of the property tax suggests that in certain instances the tax has a greater built-in progressive feature than they would care to admit.

Regardless of that generalization this government has committed itself to a careful examination of market value assessment and needed shifts and variations between residential and commercial properties throughout this province.

Mr. Warner: Right on, speak to Scarborough.

Mr. Mancini: Have you ever talked to any local officials?

Mr. McCague: I have no problem whatsoever in giving my full support to the 1976 budget brought down last month by your eminent Treasurer. He and his Treasury people have done a commendable job in reducing the public debt and developing economic incentives for a healthier business investment climate and for the ensuring necessity of greater job creation—

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: He is going to work his way down to the front.

Mr. McCague: —in bringing health care under some reasonable degree of control and, to my mind, in attempting to spread social assistance expenditures to those people who are truly in need of such help.

Mr. Warner: Like closing hospitals. You are doing a great job.

Mr. McCague: In my mind this budget sets a balance between the spirit of progressive policy in a vast number of public issues and in redressing the important balance between public and private sectors.

I wouldn't wish to sit down without expressing my gratitude to those opposite for being so quiet.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, it sounds like one of those speeches we used to hear when we first came in here nine or 10 years ago. It's like resurrecting the red flag.

Mr. Warner: That's where he got it from.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, this member spoke about the great debt and indicated to us in fact that we wanted to spend our way into oblivion and high finance. Do you know just what the Tories did?

I should remind the Legislature that when you and I came here, nine short years ago, the budget was \$2 billion. That government has been around all this time and they've managed to increase it to \$12.5 billion. That was no pie-in-the-sky socialist plot. That was done by none other than the party of the member who just spoke.

Last year, in an effort to buy themselves back into power, they were willing to sink this province \$2 billion in the hole. They did everything to buy votes. Let me give you a few examples, Mr. Speaker.

Sales tax exemption—and by the way that was interesting; the one salvation for business,

having sat on the select committee of economic and cultural nationalism for 3½ years. Every businessman who came to us gave us the same song and dance: Give us another tax break, Charlie.

Well, what do they call that? That's out of the public purse. Last year the government gave \$108 million to the exemption on machinery. That wasn't the socialists, that was the Tories. And this year it's going to be over \$300 million. The sales tax cut, in an effort to buy themselves back to power, cost the province about \$330 million in that nine-month period.

I used to say during the election last year to the people in the area I represent, "Remember friends, when the honeymoon is over, like after the Sept. 18 deadline, you're going to have to pay for it all."

Mr. Norton: Oh yes, they created more jobs.

Mr. Martel: And it came to \$2 billion. That's the debt created by the Tories.

Let me give you a few more examples. Sales tax exemption for cars; the Treasurer said it created more jobs, but in fact they had a boom year last year. They didn't have to give away \$50 million or \$60 million.

Mr. Norton: Sales picked up after the exemption.

Mr. Martel: Home buyers' grants; that was a one-shot deal to buy votes, because there's no policy in place with which to ensure homes for people today. It was a one-shot deal, that we're paying the price for now.

Mr. Warner: To buy votes. To buy votes.

Mr. Martel: Done by Tories to buy votes. Fuel tax exemption—another reduction for the industrial sector. About \$14 million for the mining industry, a group that can hardly afford it. The bill last year—probably \$600 million-plus; and this year another \$347 million-plus. We are talking a billion, as the government tried to buy its way back to power last year. That wasn't done by the Liberals. That wasn't done by the New Democratic Party. That, in fact, was done by the Tories as they tried to buy their way back to power. And you know the interesting part? The people said no.

Mr. Mancini: It didn't work.

Mr. Martel: The people said: "You're phony."

And that speech the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe just gave is the type of

speech we used to hear 10 or 15 years ago. Because I want to tell him, he might look at the select committee report which his colleagues signed, which calls for the takeover of 50 per cent of the mining industry. Those are his colleagues. They called for money of equal value of any industry we got involved in becoming the taxpayers' share.

I suggest the hon. member read the select committee report—it would be too left-wing for him—but his colleagues signed it, and they predominated on that committee. In fact, two of them are in the House tonight—none other than the Minister of Agriculture and the chief government whip (Mr. Kennedy). The hon. member might ask them what they signed.

Mr. Kennedy: Would you repeat that, please?

Mr. Martel: The hon. member just might ask them what they signed. It would do him good. Talking about budgets, let me quote from the friend of the Tories about budgets. Norm Webster writes about the Ontario budget and the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) and he entitles it, "Surplus Probable." There's more. He says: "The likely increase in oil and gas prices this year will give the province a healthy budget."

But he's not talking about Ontario. He says: "There was still to be no sales tax in Alberta and the personal income tax rate remains 15 per cent lower than Ontario."

He adds: "Albertans will remain the lowest taxed people in Canada. No longer is Ontario the fat cow of Confederation." Eat your heart out, Darcy. The article says:

"Equally vexing in its own way is last week's budget from the Saskatchewan government, for that province, the NDP pacesetter in Canada, will show a small but definite surplus in the coming fiscal year."

Mr. Warner: Surplus?

Mr. Martel: Surplus! Did you hear that? Surplus! He didn't say—

Hon. W. Newman: Yes, do you know why? Because they closed a lot of hospitals.

Mr. Martel: He didn't say a \$2 billion debt. They didn't have a debt.

Mr. Speaker, you know the Treasurer and his giveaway programme. If he had looked after the province when times were good, we might not have a \$2 billion debt after 34 years in power.

Mr. Foulds: He couldn't run a peanut stand.

Mr. Martel: Let me tell you what the president—

Mr. Deans: They should be ashamed of themselves—over-spent; over-borrowed.

Mr. Foulds: They can't even run Minaki Lodge.

Mr. Deans: Incompetent.

Mr. Martel: That's right. Let me tell the House what the president of Motorways, a rather large trucking firm, says: "Saskatchewan: an island of prosperity." The mayor of the city of Regina says: "A boom of almost embarrassing proportions." And that isn't Ontario that these gentlemen are talking about. This is Saskatchewan, you know.

Mr. Eaton: You stand over there and complain about oil prices. That's how they're getting their money.

Mr. Martel: This government is giving away our natural resources out of the ground for nothing. Let me give the members an interesting statistic. The minister concerned with mines in his statement in Quebec two or three weeks ago said at that meeting that in 1974 the value of mineral production in Ontario was \$2.42 billion, and we took in \$150 million in mining tax. He said in 1975 things weren't quite as good, mind you. The industry dropped to \$2.33 billion. Well, that's a \$90 million decline in the value of mineral production in my book. The decline in revenue was to \$45 million, a decline of \$105 million. More, Mr. Speaker, more. With the decline in the value of mineral production, the taxes were more valuable to the company. It paid the company to go down \$90 million in the value of mineral production because it paid \$105 million less in taxes.

Mr. Warner: They should be ashamed.

Mr. Martel: A \$90 million reduction in the value of mineral production—what kind of calculation is that? If the Tories want to give away the natural resources we'll always have the problem we've got—and that's what they've been doing—because it represents less than two per cent of the budget of Ontario.

Mr. Warner: They should be ashamed.

Mr. Norton: The high prices of oil our northern Ontario residents pay are supporting Saskatchewan.

Mr. Martel: I want to turn very quickly—I only have four minutes left until next fall, I'm told—to the hospital situation in Sudbury. It's time we straightened out this mess which the then acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson) got us in to because she misled the House on at least three occasions.

She misled the House—I'm not saying deliberately.

Mr. Deans: She did—she misled the House?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You can't accuse an hon. member of misleading the House.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, if I were to say that she deliberately misled the House, that would be one thing. I'm not saying she deliberately misled the House but I am saying the House was misled—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You cannot accuse another member of misleading the House.

Mr. Martel: I have no alternative, Mr. Speaker, as I will document rather carefully.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You must withdraw it.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I might say she inadvertently misled the House but before I am through I will say something else.

In the question period on April 22, I asked the minister why the Ministry of Health was willing to use what is now considered an obsolete board and to replace that board with another board. She said that Judge Waisburg had made the recommendation. I asked her a day later if Judge Waisburg had made the recommendation, why did she allow the regional chairman for the regional municipality of Sudbury to name a new board?

The minister said quite categorically on that occasion that the regional chairman did not name the new board. The following Monday, she had to admit that she had misled the Legislature into believing that the regional chairman had not made the appointments. I am trying to find the precise location.

She said "They selected three people from each of the two regions which I have mentioned; the regional hospital council and the regional council each nominated three persons."

That is not true; was not true then and has never been true. The regional chairman for the Sudbury area, Mr. Fabbro, named them all. The minister had to come back and make amends and say this wasn't so. Some time later we continued to pursue this matter and

we asked why the chairman of the hospital board who was responsible for the inquiry and who had resigned as chairman but not as a board member, was not removed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The time for adjournment has arrived. Would the hon. member consider this a good time to break?

Mr. Martel: It's not really, Mr. Speaker, but seeing that I have no alternative I move the adjournment.

Mr. Warner: I think we should stay for a while.

Mr. Martel moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

[10:30]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: As previously announced there are two matters to be debated at the adjournment of the House. I now deem a motion to adjourn to have been made and I recognize the hon. member for Port Arthur for no more than five minutes.

REVERSAL OF OMB DECISION

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, the matters I raise are so complex that I will not have time to give the House all the background necessary to understand fully the situation surrounding the Towland-Hewitson asphalt plant in Thunder Bay.

Briefly, however, Towland-Hewitson is a subsidiary of Ashland Oil Co. The company was encouraged to move the base of its operations from Catherine St. in Thunder Bay to property it owned in the Oliver Rd.-Belrose Rd. area of the city, so that the city itself could push through Balmoral St., a connecting road between the old cities of Port Arthur and Fort William.

There is no doubt that the city treated the company badly, assuring it that the Oliver Rd. site was okay, when in fact it was designated green belt and rural. However two wrongs do not make a right, and the company may have grounds for a legal suit on the matter against the city. This is no reason why the residents of the area should be made to pay for the city's folly and the company's presumption.

Many of the citizens chose to live in the area before the Thunder Bay expressway was pushed through, the necessity of which the company makes much of in its petition to cabinet. They understood the area to be a rural and a green-belt one. The company's plant is in fact a heavy industrial use. Its

asphalt plant does not depend on sand and gravel from the site, but trucks most of its materials from outside the site. In one of its few recent decisions of sanity the OMB found in favour of the citizens.

The company then waited until the last minute to petition the cabinet. All the information up until the cabinet made its decision is public. The OMB decision, the presentation at the hearings, the petition and the counter-petition presented to the cabinet are all public. Why then does the cabinet refuse to complete the public process?

When I questioned the minister on May 27, he said:

The decision . . . for reversal of the board's order was a cabinet decision and it is customary that we do not give the reasons behind our decisions. It's obvious we considered the board mistaken. Only in a very limited number of cases do we reverse, alter, vary or in any way tamper with the Municipal Board order, but in this case we considered that they were wrong, that they did not have all the facts before them. . . .

That is simply not good enough. What are these additional facts? Why can they not be made public? What has the cabinet got to hide?

I defy the minister to cite the additional facts in Ashland Oil's petition to cabinet that were not before the OMB. If the decision is above board, then let it be public knowledge. The case is another one in a long series that underlines the government's mania for secrecy and the necessity for a freedom of information Act.

Cities are for people, Mr. Speaker. The residents of the Oliver Rd.-Belrose Rd. area have been badly served by their own city in this matter, but they have been betrayed by the provincial cabinet.

The only additional fact that the cabinet may have been aware of that was not brought to the attention of the OMB was the fact that Ashland Oil contributed \$4,000 to the Ontario Conservative Party during 1975, the maximum amount allowable. The amount was contributed during the height of the controversy, \$2,000 of it was contributed after the OMB decision; and subsequently the cabinet found in favour of Ashland Oil and overturned the OMB decision.

I call on the minister to give the full facts in the case.

Mr. Warner: That's shameful.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, the last statement by the member comes as a complete and absolute surprise to me. I would not have known, and I did not know, and for that matter I will have to check and

determine whether that is a fact. I presume since the hon. member has made the statement that it is, but I can tell the hon. members of this House that cabinet did not have at any time, nor did my committee, nor so far as I am aware any member of that committee, any knowledge, whatever, of any contribution by Ashland Oil to this party.

I have no knowledge, for example, as to what contribution may have been made to any of the other parties, including the NDP. It is entirely possible that a similar, or even—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Well up to that maximum. A similar amount might well have been made to the New Democratic Party. I simply have no knowledge of that.

I can tell the hon. members that this decision, made by my colleagues and by me, was not based on any contribution or any knowledge of any contribution by Ashland Oil to the Progressive Conservative Party.

All information which was obtained by the cabinet was made available to the solicitors for the parties. Cabinet, by its order in council, varied the decision of the board and allowed the appeal of Asland Oil to amend the zoning by-law, permitting the continuation of the asphalt plant and the erection of the mechanical devices building at Oliver Rd., in the city of Thunder Bay.

Cabinet has prescribed, and I would emphasize this, certain safeguards as to noise and as to the time of operation within which this operation would continue. The objections raised by the 12 residents were to the noise and to the dust from trucks on Oliver Rd. and I can tell the hon. members that these objections were very seriously and carefully considered by my colleagues and me, both in the legislation committee of cabinet and in cabinet itself.

I would point out that the trucks must pass to and fro along Oliver Rd. for about 1,000 ft between the plant and the expressway. There are eight residents on this stretch of highway. The main objections, as we understand them anyway, were not to the noise of the plant itself—and I would point out that it's on a site of 154 acres. They weren't objecting to the noise of the operation on this site—and I would point out that that site is also 1,500 ft back from Oliver Rd. As to the trucks, by the best advice we could have available, the noise of the trucks is not likely to be felt for more than a few months each year as the work is essentially of a seasonal nature.

Cabinet was also concerned about the potential loss of jobs. Let me just at this

point interject in my reasoning on all of this that we concur with the observation made by the member for Thunder Bay that the city did indeed encourage the company to relocate. I think the member for Port Arthur, in nodding his head, concurs that the company was misled.

I don't know whether it was deliberate or otherwise, but for whatever reason, the company was misled to believe that they could relocate their operations—they could sell their existing plant in the city to the city, take over another piece of property located outside the main central core of the city, and carry on their basic operations.

Now, they had and we had on file, so did counsel for the two parties involved, copies of this information which indicated that, indeed, they had this legal opinion from the city. I made the observation at the time that legal advice is worth just about what you pay for it; in this case Ashland Oil got this, you might say free, buckshee, legal advice from counsel for the city. The fact of the matter is they acted on it, and certainly we were led to conclude that—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister's time has expired.

Hon. Mr. Meen: I will wind up very quickly then, Mr. Speaker. We were led to conclude that an injustice was perpetrated upon the company.

May I just point out that the company employs 85 persons besides independent truckers and contractors. Many of these employees work in the company's paving operation and the number of persons who would lose their jobs on the closure of such a plant, although it is unpredictable, is nevertheless definitive in the sense that there would definitely have been some.

I want to emphasize to the hon. member for Port Arthur that were this order of the board to have been upheld, definitely certain jobs would have been prejudiced. It was the view of cabinet that in all the circumstances there would have been an injustice perpetrated had the order of the board, however technically correct it may have been, been upheld. And that is why the cabinet decided that the order should be varied.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I will now recognize the hon. member for York Centre for five minutes.

SCHOOL FACILITIES IN YORK

Mr. Stong: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question that I asked the minister on May 27 past arose out of a meeting I attended with the German Mills Homeowners' Association last week. That meeting was attended by a member of the ministry who recognized the problem of the inadequate school facilities in the German Mills area of the town of Markham. It was indicated by her at that meeting that the situation was ranked with the highest priority. In jest, she even indicated that there was a red star behind this priority and I could not get any higher on the minister's list.

On May 27 I asked the minister about this situation and when he would honour his commitment to these people to provide adequate facilities both for the public school board and the separate school board. He did not know the facts and he indicated that he would review his file at that time.

By May 31 he had had opportunity to review his file and in this House he answered with a projection of figures recognizing the need as well as the inadequacy of the school facilities. He also indicated that the list was presently being studied and he said that if there was a real need in that area the project would probably move ahead very shortly—the question then being the words "If there is a real need then that project will probably move ahead very shortly," I quote from Hansard.

The German Mills area of the town of Markham is a very rapidly growing area. The projected figures are 70,000. In May, 1975, a public school was opened which housed 550 pupils. The projected figures for the next two years—less than two years—is as high as 880 pupils. There are already three portables on that site. By September the portables will have increased to seven.

St. Michael's Separate School presently has 12 portables, no permanent buildings, and by September will be made up of 14 portables.

The German Mills Homeowners' Association met with the school board of York county in November, 1975, with respect to this problem. The board of education for the county passed the problem to the ministry indicating that the ministry's prerequisite of an 80 per cent fulfilment requirement must be met before a school will be planned, much less built.

Those figures have already been met and unless the situation is met immediately and

plans are set out immediately there will be no buildings built to meet the projected figures by 1978.

I must say as well that we learned it takes at least two years—in reality three years—from the initial planning stages through survey, through architectural consideration and financing to build a school. This situation has been allowed to degenerate to the extent that the homeowners in the German Mills area are paying tax dollars equal to those of every other taxpayer in this area but their tax dollars are not being met with quality.

We are interested in obtaining from the minister a commitment—not an if, not a probably—but a commitment to the people of the German Mills Homeowners' Association and the people of the town of Markham

that he will at this point commit moneys to the projection and to the fulfilment of the commitment he has made to provide adequate school facilities in that area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. Minister of Revenue.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education, who is unable to attend the House at this time, tells me he expressed all the relevant points on this matter during the original questioning and that he has no further points to add at this time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I deem the motion to adjourn to have been carried.

The House adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Thursday, June 3, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

CREDIT UNIONS

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I'll be introducing a new Credit Unions Act for consideration by the Legislature. This Act will grant important new powers to the credit union movement while also providing for improved security for depositors.

Ontario has enjoyed a remarkably sound record of safety and security for the public's savings. This record has been achieved while at the same time encouraging rapid growth in the number and scope of provincially-regulated borrowing institutions.

The dual policy of security and service is reflected in the new Act. The most important provision is for deposit insurance of up to \$20,000 for each depositor, the same as in banks and loan and trust companies.

The insurance will be provided by a new Ontario Share and Deposit Insurance Corp. under the direction of a nine-man board appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. Six of these directors will come from the two major associations representing credit unions and caisses populaire and three directors will be appointed to represent the public and those credit unions which do not belong to one of the associations.

The Deposit Insurance Corp. will be funded by an initial assessment of one per cent of the total share capital and deposits of every credit union and caisse populaire in Ontario. This amount will be paid either directly or through an association and it will be treated as an investment rather than an expense. A total of approximately \$17 million will be raised in this way.

Interest paid on this initial assessment will be more than sufficient to cover all the administrative costs of the corporation. This insurance scheme will not be a burden on the taxpayer or the movement. No addi-

tional assessments should be necessary unless the fund sustains serious losses.

My ministry will retain ultimate responsibility for supervision and inspection of credit unions in this province. The Superintendent of Insurance will also examine the Share and Deposit Insurance Corp. in the same way as any other insurance company and it will have to meet the same requirements.

On the basis of deposit insurance, we are prepared to encourage wider powers and faster growth for the credit union movement. Some of these new powers include: The power to invest in guaranteed or insured mortgages; eligibility of business partnerships for credit union membership; the power to act outside Ontario in certain matters; elimination of the requirement that credit union members must make up 51 per cent of the voting shareholders of corporations having a credit union membership; the power to invest in real estate for income purposes; the power to act as an agent on behalf of credit union membership; the power to purchase life insurance for members; the power to establish and support funds, trusts and pensions for employees or former employees and their dependents.

Mr. Speaker, our objective is to increase competition among suppliers of financial services because we believe this is the best possible way to serve the public interest. In our view, a healthy, fast-growing credit union industry is one of the best defences we have against the potential impact of highly concentrated financial resources such as those wielded by the five largest chartered banks. This new legislation will act as the basis for fresh expansion and development of the credit union movement.

This legislation is being introduced for first reading today and will stand on the order paper in order to give everyone affected an opportunity to study it. We look forward to proceeding with the bill in the fall after all comments have been received and evaluated.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the select committee on company law whose report on credit unions laid the groundwork for this progressive legislation.

PETROLEUM PRICING REPORT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise the House that Part I of the final report by the Royal Commission on Petroleum Products Pricing has been received by the Lieutenant Governor.

This comprehensive text deals with the refining and marketing of petroleum products in Ontario and is the first of two reports, the latter of which will address the question of security of supply and will provide a general review of the commission's work. Recent events pertaining to crude oil are cited by the commission as requiring further reflection and thus the need for additional time. It is anticipated that Part II of the final report will be available around the first week of July.

The terms of reference of this royal commission provided for detailed analysis and the commissioner and his staff are to be complimented on their thoroughness in soliciting the facts.

In tabling this report, the government looks for the public's reaction and comments. Consequently, the public is invited to send to me their comments so that they may be incorporated into the overall review of the commission's recommendations.

The Ministry of Energy has been assigned responsibility for the review of the recommendations and co-ordination of the public's comments as well as the co-ordination of those other ministries of the government which have an interest in the commission's findings.

I would expect to conclude our evaluation and to make known the government's response to the recommendations within the very near future.

FARM INCOME STABILIZATION PLAN

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, later this afternoon I shall introduce the Farm Income Stabilization Act, 1976.

Mr. Haggerty: After two years?

Hon. W. Newman: It will play a vital role in maintaining a strong agricultural base in Ontario, to the benefit of both producer and consumer. At this time I would like to outline the events and policies that have led to this legislation.

Farmers have always been plagued by the problem of cash returns fluctuating wildly from one year to the next. With farm production costs spiralling, there has been intensive discussion in recent years of ways to help

offset periods of low market prices and thus bring greater stability to the whole agriculture and food complex. The goal is to set support price levels high enough to be meaningful in the lean years, but not so high that they would act as incentives to overproduction. At the same time, it is important that governmental interference should be kept to a minimum, with the farmer's need to run his own operation in his own way kept intact.

The federal government and the provinces began discussing farm income stabilization three years ago, since agricultural policy is a federal-provincial responsibility. Concern was high at that time over world-wide food shortages and the government of Canada had called for increased food production in Canada. Any sustained and meaningful increase could occur only if farmers were assured that production increases would not be accompanied by the usual sharp drop in prices and incomes.

The provincial governments agreed that income stabilization measures should be national in scope, and thus mainly a federal function, although they would have to be flexible enough to allow for regional variations. We were all aware of the dangers of interprovincial competition—and even price wars—if each province brought in its own large-scale programmes of farm income stabilization. That sort of Balkanization would run directly counter to the growing patterns of interdependence among all segments of Canada's food industry.

On the other hand, all the provincial governments realized that special situations would arise requiring provincial programmes to protect producers of a specific commodity. One example of such action is the Ontario government's highly successful beef-calf programme, initiated last year when markets were severely depressed.

Apart from these general areas of agreement, however, the negotiators in the protracted federal-provincial talks took many, varying approaches to the income stabilization concept.

This government, for one, was not satisfied when the House of Commons passed Bill C-50 to amend the federal Agricultural Stabilization Act last July. It guaranteed farmers at least 90 per cent of the average market price for the previous five years plus an adjustment to reflect increases in their production costs. This guarantee applied to a list of named commodities—cattle, sheep, swine, industrial milk and cream, corn, soya beans, and oats and barley not included in the provisions of the Canada Wheat Board Act. Bill

C-50 also permitted the federal government to designate other commodities for inclusion from time to time. We felt these measures did not go far enough to meet the needs of agriculture in Ontario.

We pressed Ottawa repeatedly not only to guarantee every Canadian farmer 90 per cent of the average market price for his commodities over the previous five years or, better still, the previous three years, but also to co-operate in a supplementary voluntary programme to guarantee a higher level of support for producers who wanted it. We envisaged a three-way partnership of the federal government, the provincial government and the Ontario farmers who chose to enrol in a plan covering a particular commodity. Each would contribute equally to a stabilization fund that would build up in good years and make compensating payments to contributors in bad years at support levels to be determined jointly by the three partners.

I still feel such a plan has much to commend it, but since I became Minister of Agriculture and Food last October it has become apparent that it is increasingly difficult to reach federal-provincial accord on stabilization. This must be done, however, and our efforts in this regard will be continued through the deputy ministers' committee established last year at the agriculture ministers' conference in Newfoundland. In the absence of a comprehensive, meaningful national programme, British Columbia and Quebec had meanwhile legislated their own provincial programmes. Reluctantly, the government of Ontario decided to do likewise.

[2:15]

We considered several alternative ways of operating a provincial income stabilization plan. Some were discarded because we simply cannot afford them, especially during this government's anti-inflationary programme of restraints on spending. Others might have led to the sort of interprovincial rivalry in farm marketing systems that I mentioned earlier. We have chosen a programme that is tailored to our means as well as our needs. It will dovetail with the federal farm income stabilization plan, and it will guarantee that every serious producer of every commodity in Ontario is protected against disastrously low market prices. At the risk of over-simplifying, these are the key provisions of the Act:

First, it provides for appointment of five or more members to a Farm Income Stabilization Commission of Ontario. This Crown agency and its staff will administer a perma-

nent fund for programmes providing support to all Ontario commodities other than those named or designated under the federal Act and those regulated by marketing boards that both set prices and allot quotas. The latter category consists of dairy products, poultry and eggs. Our beef-calf programme will operate independently until the government's contracts with producers expire in 1980, at which time it will also come under the commission's regulations. Our programme is thus designed to embrace all commodities for which no federal support is available, except in those cases where prices established by marketing boards are higher than the stabilization support level. We have no wish to interfere with the collective bargaining process already established between processors and producers of these commodities.

Commodities for which stabilization is made available will be supported at a level equal to 90 per cent of the average market price for the previous five years, adjusted for production cost changes in the current year as compared to the five-year average. This is the same level at which the federal programme operates, so Ontario's plan should have no undesirable effects on the marketing systems in our sister provinces.

If unusual circumstances made it necessary, the commission could provide extra support for a specific commodity by temporarily increasing the base level above 90 per cent.

All the commissioners will be members of Ontario's agricultural community and every effort will be made to ensure a broad representation of interests. The commission's general manager will be its chief administrative officer. Subject to ministerial approval, the commission may also engage outside experts if necessary. It will be empowered to consult and conduct discussions with marketing boards and any other organizations or groups of producers of this province. The commission's accounts will be audited by the Provincial Auditor and its annual reports will be submitted to this House.

Mr. Sargent: Sounds like a lot of bull.

Hon. W. Newman: I believe members will agree that the Farm Income Stabilization Act will provide the greater degree of income security that Ontario farmers need which, in turn, will strengthen our food production system for the benefit of everyone in Ontario.

TRAVEL INDUSTRY COMPENSATION FUND

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House that we have filed a regulation to amend regulation 367-75 under the Travel Industry Act. Copies of the new regulation will be distributed to all members so that they will have some idea of its contents.

The change in the regulations makes it clear that travel agents who have reimbursed the public or who have provided alternate vacation when a travel wholesaler failed to provide the contracted service, may claim against the fund. We felt there was some urgency in making the move at this time because there are many agents' claims currently outstanding. I have stated many times that agents who dealt at arm's length from the wholesaler and who have acted in good faith in compensating consumers should have access to the fund. These claims will be dealt with shortly.

Mr. Speaker, I have continually stressed to the industry that if amendments to the Act are required, they would be made. I repeated that commitment during the examination of my ministry's estimates. I will today introduce legislation which will remove some of the uncertainties which have concerned members of the travel industry, particularly with regard to the specific application of section 13 of the Act. We believe that the new regulation and the proposed amendments to the Act will meet the concerns of the travel industry while emphasizing our primary responsibility to the travelling public.

Section 3 of the bill which will be introduced today removes any uncertainty as to the validity of regulation 491-76. These measures have been worked out in consultation with the travel industry and its representatives, the Ontario Travel Industry Conference.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement of privilege arising out of comments contained in a column which appeared in the *Globe and Mail* on Wednesday, June 2, under the byline of Norman Webster.

Mr. Lewis: You want to make a statement of privilege! I should make the statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In this column, Mr. Speaker, it is stated, with explicit reference to myself that:

He is playing down the menace of Minamata disease on the Indian reserves. He will, if he can get away with it, put the mercury problem back behind the curtain where we won't see it or smell it or be critical of those who mishandle it.

Mr. Deans: What is the privilege of that?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. Martel: What else is new?

Mr. Lewis: That was the only redeeming paragraph.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I sure wish the member for Lake Nipigon was in the Chair.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I resent both the explicit allegation contained in these statements and the innuendo which they imply. I consider them to be clearly and deliberately inflammatory and an attack against my integrity as an elected public servant. It has always been the policy of the government, and my policy as a member of that government, to deal with the needs of the native people of the Grassy Narrows—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —and Whitedog Reserves in a responsible manner. I have consistently held that it is my responsibility, as an elected representative of these people and a member of the government, to ensure that every possible medical and scientific resource which is available to this and other governments is brought to bear on this issue to find out what the possible effects of mercury on the health of the members of these bands may be.

As well, I have also held that the social and economic needs of these people should be handled separately, as they have been by this government, and that our programmes should be fully integrated with those of the federal government.

We have streamlined our efforts through the appointment of an inter-ministry co-ordinator who is based in Kenora. The government is also funding another co-ordinator

working specifically for the band councils and who is based on the reserve.

This is the course the government has taken and it is one which is being effective, and I hope it will be maintained.

Mr. Makarchuk: Is this a point of privilege or a ministerial statement?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I also wish to take exception to another statement in the same column which asserts that I am "up on my high horse and riding it hell for leather."

Mr. Angus: Some horse. On a moose, I think.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I interpret this to mean that I am taking satisfaction in the discomfort of other public figures on this issue. I resent this statement and its implication because it is opposite to the views which I do hold, and hold most strongly.

Mr. Warner: This is absurd.

Mr. Martel: There has been no action over the years.

Mr. MacDonald: Methinks he protesteth too much.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I do not now, nor have I ever believed, that the health of these people is a fit or proper subject for partisan politics. Far from taking satisfaction from this sorry affair, it is my hope that this incident—

Mr. Breaugh: You don't know anything about it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —will serve as a lesson to all of us that we have a long way to go in attempting to serve the needs of our native people throughout this province.

Mr. Martel: Six years too long.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I do not believe that any one political party or any one member of this House, myself included, has any corner on commitment or interest in the welfare of these people.

On Monday, the Leader of the Opposition called for a non-partisan approach to the health needs of these people. I would say to him, at this time, that as far as I am concerned it is a non-partisan affair and that if he is prepared to accept the responsibility for his suggestion, I will accept it at face value and he will find that it is returned in kind by me and my staff.

Mr. Laughren: You are an embarrassment.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I would also point out that it is not for us as politicians to jump to conclusions and to take decisions which can only be taken properly by medical and health scientists. When we assume those responsibilities and prerogatives we do a disservice to this House and to the public.

When there is a final determination on this matter, it will then be our responsibility to bring forward policies which will assist these people. In the meantime, let us get on with the job of supporting the joint undertakings of this Legislature and the Parliament of Canada without regard to partisanship or recriminations.

Mr. Lewis: Call a debate tomorrow, call off the dogs of war.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Quite properly and understandably, people resent attitudes which are condescending or paternalistic. There is no room in this important matter—

An hon. member: People resent you.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —for such attitudes. Equally, there is no room for partisanship.

Mr. Lewis: That's called chutzpah.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. S. Smith: On a point of privilege, in a letter dated Sept. 12, 1975, from L. G. Link, president of Ashland Oil of Canada Ltd., the then Liberal Party in Ontario received a contribution by way of a cheque for \$4,000 for its election campaign funds.

Mr. Yakabuski: Oh my gosh! What a waste of money!

Mr. S. Smith: Among the subsidiary companies of Ashland Oil is Towland-Hewitson Construction Ltd. of Thunder Bay. Ashland's contribution to this party is documented and recorded in accordance with the legislation passed by this House. We welcome the support given freely and openly by Ashland Oil as an example of good corporate citizenship.

Mr. Angus: I would say that was straight self-preservation.

Mr. S. Smith: In the case of the Liberal Party, the support was given—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, order. The hon. member for Hamilton West.

Mr. S. Smith: Apparently donations from American unions are welcome but not from US companies which operate in this country.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Beautiful.

Mr. S. Smith: In the case of the Liberal Party, the support was given without favours sought and, on our part certainly, no promises or undertakings made.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: I feel like a point of personal privilege—just on principle.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: As a matter of privilege, I would like to know why no major multinational corporations ever offer us a donation which we might then refuse?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think we should get on with the question period now.

Mr. Reid: Fix the NDP halo first, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let's get on with the serious business of the House now.

Oral questions.

GRASSY NARROWS RESERVE

Mr. Lewis: May I, Mr. Speaker, following the non-partisan wish of the Minister of National Resources, direct my question to the Premier, if he can gather himself together.

May I ask him, through the Speaker, given the information that has now emerged of the Grassy Narrows and Whitedog Indians' unwillingness to eat the fish in the freezer, and the clear unavailability of alternative food supplies without mercury contamination in the surrounding lakes, is there any conceivable step which the government might now take or is contemplating to provide a response to what is looming as a pretty clear crisis in terms of alternative protein sources?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have followed this discussion—including the Leader of the Opposition's visit to the site over the weekend and the early part of the week—and I share the concern of all of us, I think, that a very logical and intelligent solution to this problem, not a total solution, appears perhaps not to be working.

There is no question that the availability of food supply was there and can be there.

Quite frankly I find it a little difficult to understand why the people resident in that community don't avail themselves of it. Whether some alternatives could be found or whether the same reaction might develop I can't honestly say to the Leader of the Opposition but it is a matter that the government will be pursuing.

I do say to him as unemotionally and in as non-partisan a fashion as I can—because I really don't think it is a matter of partisan politics at all—I still can't quite understand the reluctance of the people in that community to avail themselves of this very proper source of food supply. It is something that I don't totally understand. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition does; I don't as yet.

However, we continue to recognize this as a problem and the government will be taking whatever steps we can. You can't force people to eat certain foods; you can't force them to do things they don't want to do. The best we can do is to make certain things available. I restate that the policy was developed; the programme made this food supply, a traditional food supply, available for them; the fact it is not being used is still somewhat difficult for me to comprehend.

Mr. Lewis: By way of a supplementary, if I may: Might it be possible to provide a focus for the breakdown in communications, which clearly exists between Grassy Narrows, Whitedog and the government, by one of the alternatives suggested, not just by me but by others, for alternative food supplies, long-term economic development and some effort to prevent a showdown at the road on June 10? Might the Premier consider instituting some alternative measure within the next week?

[2:30]

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, we certainly are looking at it. I am really one of those who does not believe there will be a showdown on June 10. I think that with a reasonable approach and with a degree of understanding by those who are involved, this can be avoided; but certainly we are looking at it right now.

Mr. Lewis: A related question of the Solicitor General or Provincial Secretary for Justice, if I may: Is he still proceeding with his sabotage inquiry at Grassy Narrows?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Sir, I didn't realize there was a sabotage inquiry, but yes, we've sent Insp. Doug Civil of the OPP to the reserve to see what he can find out about the

situation there and the turning off of the freezer or the failure of the freezer.

PETROLEUM PRICING REPORT

Mr. Lewis: May I ask a question of the Minister of Energy? Since an admittedly cursory reading of the recommendations of the royal commission on petroleum products pricing indicates that it appears to be a most extraordinary endorsement, not to say a whitewash of the oil companies, is it possible for us to have for public review the various financial statements on which these recommendations and conclusions were based?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I think the term "whitewash" or whatever is perhaps a little strong after a cursory review; I haven't even had a chance to finish reading it word for word myself.

Mr. Breaugh: You can prove it by opening the books.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The material, I believe, is available through the submissions that were made to the inquiry. I'm checking again the question of how any material that was received in camera in phase one of the royal commission's work is to be dealt with at the conclusion of the inquiry as to the role of the commissioner and/or the archivist and the Attorney General's office disposition of that material. But I believe the hon. member would have available to him, if he doesn't have them already, the various briefs that were submitted by the companies, by groups such as the Federation of Independent Business, the Ontario Retail Gasoline Association and so forth. If he doesn't have those, I would suggest that he have one of his staff phone the secretary of the commission. I'm sure they can be made available.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, how is it possible for us to measure the commissioner's opposition to so many positions put forward to him, without knowing or having access to the financial statements tabled in camera? How can this report be given credence without those financial statements?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Again, if the member will take the time—this is a very important subject, and I don't think we should try to solve all the problems or dismiss everything within the next five minutes. If he'll take the time to read the report, he'll find that the royal commission did extensive surveying on their own of retail dealers throughout the

province, looking at the rental situation, consignment selling, the dealer margins, tank-wagon prices and various other aspects of the retail sector.

Mr. Bullbrook: What does that have to do with the question? That's not even remotely connected to the question.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The hon. member for Sarnia knows it all, so he's going to babble on. I'll talk with the hon. Leader of the Opposition. In fact, they have done a lot of the work themselves and not relied entirely on what they got from either the companies or groups representing the retail and/or independent operators.

Mr. Singer: Why don't you answer the question?

Mr. Shore: Does that answer your question?

Mr. Stokes: Since the commissioner himself admits to a discrepancy of 19 cents a gallon and he was only able to justify 13.4 cents of it in the price component, one cent of which is for full realization of posted tankwagon prices between north and south, and 5.4 cents for transportation, will the minister and his officials question the components that go to make up the 19-cent differential between north and south?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: First of all, if the hon. member cares to go with me later this afternoon, we'll go to a certain gas station at the corner of St. Charles and Bay St., where the price of gasoline today is 89.9 cents a gallon; then we'll go out to Scarborough, where there is a station at Kingston Rd. and Danforth charging 72.9 cents. There is a 17-cent spread even within Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Reid: You can't find it at that price in northern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Again, if the hon. member will read the report and look at the material—I've already got a lot of questions myself and I'm only three-quarters of the way going through it word for word. I have a lot of questions that I want clarified by the commissioner and/or his staff. We want to do a complete review with our sister ministries and to sit down with a number of the groups that appeared before the commission, to get their comments on the report before we make any final determination.

HOSPITAL WORKERS DISPUTE

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Minister of Health, if I may: How are we going to re-

solve the impasse in the hospital workers negotiations now that the votes are coming in—I gather just half an hour ago—ranging in favour of a strike between 76 and 99 per cent in the five hospitals that have so far voted?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I wish I knew that it was going to be resolved. The mechanisms for discussion are there. The employees are employees of the hospitals, not of the province. The province has made its budgetary amounts clearly known to the hospitals. We feel that the bargaining must take place between the unions and the hospitals according to the law and I would do anything I could to encourage those groups to go back to discussion.

I understand discussions haven't been going on for some time, that the actions and counter-actions I assume are being heard either today or tomorrow by the Labour Relations Board, as a result of the threats of the strike and the threats that bargaining in good faith has not been going on. I just sincerely hope that these groups will get back to the bargaining table and try to proceed.

Mr. Lewis: And if they don't, pray tell, what then?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, if they don't, if the proper final result is compulsory arbitration, as required by the law, that is the only course of action I could recommend.

INDIAN LAND AND RESOURCE CLAIMS

Mr. Lewis: One last question, if I may, to the Minister of Natural Resources: I gather that the minister has had in his possession for more than a year now, from within the ministry, a quite comprehensive assortment of Indian land and resource claims, identifying no less than 97 potential areas of controversy and conflict around claims in the Province of Ontario. What has happened to this material and where is the minister taking it from here?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, that's the initial report. I have appointed Ted Wilson, of my staff, to go into further details and to further examine all areas of Indian land claims within the province so that we can put it into one package, including the various problems that are related to those land issues. Then they will be coming forward and within my ministry we will be making a presentation to the federal government, to CCRD first and then to cabinet, to find out and try to resolve them.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: It is possible for the minister to share with the Legislature

the ongoing work of his ministry, since many of these claims go well beyond land? They deal with matters that are capable of resolution within Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I will consider that.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, could we have a supplementary question? Is the list of 97 claims to which the Leader of the Opposition referred the ministry's conception of what the claims are, or have they been arrived at by discussion with the Indian community throughout Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, they have been pulled together in a number of different ways; some from direct contact with the Indian bands, others are ones that we are aware of, others that we can find within the land files that cause us some concern and raise some question, and they are all put in the same package.

Mr. Renwick: Supplementary question: I can take it then that in no sense is that list an exclusive list?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, I don't think so, Mr. Speaker. This is why Mr. Wilson has been appointed to delve into it solely, and his time is being spent solely on that particular subject.

Mr. Sargent: Supplementary: Is there any reason why cash payments can't be made to the Indians now, concerning the lands acquired from the Indian reserves by the ministry over the years in the Bruce Peninsula?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, there is some concern and there are some legal problems with regard to the agreement between the Ontario government and the federal government that dates back to 1924. We are trying to resolve that. We've had discussions with the various Indian leaders. We think we're very near that point where we can resolve the issue that the federal government wanted to resolve with us, and further clarify the land issue problems as related to those land problems pre-dating 1924, because I believe there were two court cases that were quite different in their solutions. These are being resolved by agreement with the three parties. Once that is resolved and clarified, then we will be able to make payments to those Indian bands whose funds are being held in trust on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker: I'll announce this as the final supplementary.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I would like to ask the minister if, included in this list, is the caution of the Bear Island Indian band on the 105 townships in northeastern Ontario? Is Mr. Wilson now dealing with that Indian claim as well?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I suspect that that would be one of the land issues. It's one of the larger issues in the province at the present time. Mr. Wilson certainly will be dealing with that particular issue.

FARM INCOME STABILIZATION PLAN

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Based on his statement today about the proposed Farm Income Stabilization Act, do I understand correctly that he will be naming a commission and the commissioners will basically be on the government payroll? If I'm correct about that, is this not going directly against what the farmers have asked for, namely, an agency with no government ties which will be able to bargain for farmers with the government? What kind of bargaining will government commissioners be able to do on their behalf?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, the commission I propose to set up could have various representatives from various groups from across this province, as I said. It could also have a civil servant or two on it. This will be the commission which will be dealing with individual groups and organizations which want to come forward to get involved in the programme.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary question: Is the minister planning to honour the producers' request for a programme covering this crop year? Has he been doing the cost of production analyses and the various kinds of homework which will be necessary for anticipating this legislation which, after all, he has promised for so long? Is it going to cover this crop year as requested?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, when the member sees this bill he will have a chance to examine it. We have been monitoring and keeping statistical data for a number of years and we will certainly have the necessary data as stated.

As far as covering this crop year is concerned; it will cover this crop year but the pay out, of course, will come at the end of the crop year.

Mr. MacDonald: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Did I understand the minister correctly in his earlier statement, by way of an explanation, that the price would be decided by the government or by this commission and, if so, through negotiations with the appropriate farm organizations?

Hon. W. Newman: This commission will deal with the various commodity groups which want to get involved in this programme. They will come forward to the commission and make their representations. The commission will talk to them about the cost of production factors, sale values and all the pertinent facts which I mentioned in the statement. They will then make recommendations to the minister for implementation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I just point out, first of all, that it's been indicated clearly that the bill will be introduced. I think we're wasting the time of the House at this time to question in detail the various matters which will be dealt with by the bill. We're anticipating that it's going to be dealt with very shortly and it's in direct contravention to a certain order on our order paper.

BREAK-IN AT BROADCASTER'S APARTMENT

Mr. S. Smith: I have a question of the Solicitor General. This is with regard to the break-in at the apartment of broadcaster Don McNeill in Ottawa. Is there some rational explanation why the Ottawa police allegedly waited until they were told that publicity would be given to this whole matter if they didn't send out investigators to the apartment? Is it correct that the identification unit was not sent out in this case although that is normally standard procedure? Can the minister clarify the behaviour of the Ottawa police in this matter?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I cannot do so. I'll get that information.

MOPED HELMETS

Mr. S. Smith: I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications—he's disappeared; there he is. While he's taking his seat: In view of the minister's statement that he studied the nine deaths which occurred in moped accidents in Ontario last year and concluded that there was no clear evidence that helmets could have averted those tragedies, can he make the same statement with respect to injuries? Par-

ticularly, can he tell us the statistics with respect to head injuries? If the deaths couldn't have been prevented, how many serious head injuries would have been prevented by the use of helmets?

[2:45]

Hon. Mr. Snow: No. Mr. Speaker, I can't give that detailed information right now. I don't know whether our statistics give us enough of that detail to be able to determine how many of the injuries that did occur were head injuries, or might have been prevented by the use of helmets.

I want to make it perfectly clear, Mr. Speaker, that although I am not satisfied we have a satisfactory helmet to regulate at this time, it is certainly my opinion that a helmet is advisable and that I hope some type of helmet is available in the future that could be used in this situation. But the heavy motorcycle helmet, as everyone knows and as was debated in this House by my predecessor and the members of the House, I don't believe is a suitable protective helmet for this particular use.

Mr. Cunningham: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Am I correct in assuming by what I read in one of the Toronto papers that the rationale for the minister's failure to enact legislation to cover people who drive mopeds was, in fact, the reason that the mopeds go extremely slowly and not as fast as a regular motorcycle and it doesn't afford the driver the kind of ventilation for his helmet that a regular motorcycle would by virtue of its speed?

Hon. Mr. Snow: That was one comment that I made; and I think I am not concerned about that comment at all. Certainly, I do think that the heavy, padded—

Mr. Sargent: He is pulling your leg.

Hon. Mr. Snow: —enclosed motorcycle helmet would be a most unreasonable and most uncomfortable thing for a person riding a moped or a bicycle to wear. If the member doesn't agree with me, well then that's fine.

Mr. Shore: Talk about the seatbelts then.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Germa: Whatever happened to the promise of the minister's predecessor that the ministry would be developing a helmet for moped drivers?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, my ministry is not in the business of manufacturing hel-

metts of any type, and we don't intend to be. But my staff has worked very hard over the past year and investigated many types of helmets to see if there was some type available that would more appropriately meet the needs of this particular situation. To date staff have not felt they have come up with a helmet they could recommend that we regulate, unless we were prepared to go for the full motorcycle helmet. What to me seems more appropriate and may eventually be the conclusion, is a helmet similar to those worn by hockey players, that is much lighter, has ventilation slots in it and I think would supply a degree of protection, although it's really not made for this particular purpose.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary; the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Singer: I wonder if the minister would advise us whether or not he thinks it appropriate that he should repeal legislation passed by this House and introduced by his predecessor merely by getting up somewhere and making a speech, instead of bringing a repealing statute before the Legislature and hearing the Legislature's comments.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, first of all I didn't get up anywhere and make a speech. I have done nothing to repeal any part of the legislation; and the member knows that, perhaps better than most members of the House.

Mr. Singer: Legislation is there and there was a debate about it and there were going to be helmets; and now the minister wipes it out with a stroke of his hand.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. It is developing into a debate right now.

Hon. Mr. Snow: With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, I don't think the hon. member knows what he is talking about. That legislation was debated—

Mr. Ruston: He said with all due respect.

Mr. Singer: You'll eat those words some day.

Mr. Shore: Is that with all due respect?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I always have respect for the legal profession but I never—very seldom anyway—take their advice.

Mr. Shore: That's your first mistake.

Mr. S. Smith: Can't win them all, Roy.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Especially that of my colleague on my right.

Mr. Singer: You get worse as you go on.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let's get on with the question period.

Mr. Ruston: Sit down while you are ahead.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, or should know, if he refers to the debate in this House, it was decided and agreed in this House that the clause would be put in the legislation but that it would not be proclaimed until a satisfactory helmet was available.

Mr. Singer: Nonsense, nonsense.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Snow: A satisfactory helmet is not available, so that clause has not been proclaimed. It is still there and can be proclaimed at any time.

Mr. Singer: Until you had a satisfactory one, that's all. You were given the job to apply the statute.

Mr. Shore: I got a good one.

BROWNDALE OPERATIONS

Mr. S. Smith: I have a question of the Minister of Health, which he may wish to share with the recently arrived Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry). The minister has apparently indicated to the House that he has been looking into the Browndale contract; this was on Tuesday and I wasn't here. Is he prepared to give a full report to the House and make the audit public? Why has it taken since February to finish an audit which was supposed to take one month? Will the minister stop stonewalling on this important issue?

Mr. Cunningham: Time is your strength.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, as a result of the audit done by our staff, we asked for details on the professional components charged by Browndale National—I think that is the name of the company—to Browndale Ontario. This information, I am told, is going to be given to us and we will be allowed to look at it at that time and come to some conclusions as to the fairness of the charges; whether, in fact, they've kept enough people on staff to justify the amounts charged per

person per day and so on. I'd like to give them the time to respond, since they said they would do so.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: Is the minister aware that the longer he continues delaying and giving them more and more time to prepare things for him, the greater the harm it is doing the parents and the reputation of other operators and the children? I'm being deluged with letters about this. Does he realize that time is of the essence and that this session is only going on a little while longer?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I think the two things are totally unrelated. Browndale has problems, but they don't relate to whether or not I'm paying a fair amount or Browndale is paying a fair amount for the psychological or psychiatric services supplied by its central office.

There certainly are problems involving the quality of care, particularly in Haliburton, that have been of real concern to this ministry of late. Those are under active discussion and it would appear that the best solution could well be the same kind of local board that we set up in Peterborough.

I understand some disagreement has been voiced by members of Browndale about that course of action. As yet, as far as I know, I don't have any authority to insist on it. I can only request it and I've been doing that.

Mr. Shore: Supplementary: It was my understanding that the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson) said that as soon as the audit was done it would be presented to this House, and I don't think it is a matter of what's in the audit, but I would like to ask the minister why he will not present the audit to this House?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have not said I wouldn't.

Mr. Shore: Pardon? I didn't hear the answer.

Mr. Speaker: Would the minister repeat his answer?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have not said I wouldn't. I'll be glad to review what the acting minister said and make that determination.

IMPORTED GRAPEVINES

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I would like to reply to a question raised by the leader of the third party, Monday, May 31, 1976, regarding a virus problem in grapes.

Mr. Lewis: I didn't like that when you used to do it to us. It wasn't nice.

Hon. W. Newman: Okay, the leader of the Liberal Party.

Mr. S. Smith: I don't mind.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Hon. W. Newman: The article that was published in *Farm and Country* on this topic misrepresents the situation as it does not describe the complete facts. Mr. Ron Moyer, chairman of the Ontario Grape Producers Marketing Board, has issued a statement correcting the article, and this appeared in Tuesday night's edition of the *St. Catharines Standard*:

The approval for the importation of vines and grape stock from Europe and the checking of such is an Agriculture Canada responsibility, not Ontario agriculture as a ministry. We are well aware of the total situation. Samples of the vines and root stocks imported this year are under test and will be for at least a couple of years, hence results are not available.

The 70 per cent infected stock referred to in the article relates to the past. It must be realized that only those vines and root stocks which are suspicious from a visual point of view are sent to the Agriculture Canada quarantine station at Sidney, B.C.

The staff of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, located at the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario at Vine-land, are all very well aware of the situation and are working closely with the scientists of the research branch of Agriculture Canada to assist growers in this matter. Agriculture Canada has made a proposal to Landscape Ontario as to how virus-indexed stock could be made available to nurserymen and growers in Ontario.

It should also be appreciated that the only serious virus problem in grapes at present results from a local virus and not from any that might have been imported. Careful vineyard management is fairly effective in keeping this virus under control.

AID TO ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Mr. di Santo: I have a question of the Premier. On May 11, in answering a question of the leader of my party related to assistance for the victims of the earthquake

in Italy, the Premier promised that the government was going to take some action in one week, if I recall correctly. Can he tell us at this time what the government has been doing or what it is going to do immediately if possible?

Hon. Mr. Davis: When I made that statement in the House on that occasion it was after some rather hurried discussion, I believe, with the Italian consulate here and some other interested members of the Italian community. Since that time, it has been suggested to us that the need for some of the specific items mentioned in my statement on that occasion—basically pharmaceutical supplies—were not required.

In the past few days, we have been exploring some other form of assistance in a tangible form, perhaps a specific project or assistance on one or two projects. It is possible that one of the ministers of the government may be visiting that part of Italy early next week to find out what specifically might be done.

Mr. Moffatt: Yourself?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, not myself.

Mr. Moffatt: Send the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough).

Hon. Mr. Davis: If that does take place, then we'll be able to inform the hon. members just what sort of assistance the people of the Province of Ontario will be providing. But I do point out that our initial response was in the area of pharmaceutical equipment or matters of that kind, and it was brought to our attention by the representatives of the Italian government that they felt that sort of assistance was not necessary and that it might take some other form. That's what we're looking at.

DEVELOPMENT OF JUNIOR MINES

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources in regard to junior mining stocks—a continuation of last Thursday's question. Maybe I could also have the attention of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) on this as well.

Would the minister not agree that the policy 302 of the Ontario Securities Commission in regard to junior mining stocks and raising of funds in Ontario is unduly restrictive, particularly the fact that they require that all mining stocks, before they can be promoted and financed, must be passed by a

supposed mining expert in the employ of the Ontario Securities Commission?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is correct in that, under regulation 302 of the Ontario Securities Commission, the commission has engaged a mining consultant, to whom they look for advice with respect to new properties being placed on the market for a certain type of venture. One area that has come to my attention since last week, in discussing this with the hon. member, is that there is an appeal route from that particular individual. This is an area I was not fully familiar with, but it opens up a whole new avenue.

As I indicated to the hon. member, my deputy minister, Dr. Reynolds, is chairing a special committee looking into this aspect of regulation 302. He reported to me as late as yesterday that it's very difficult for him to come to grips with some of the issues, because no properties have been given to the Ontario Securities Commission for furtherance or passing through; he has nothing to get a handle on. I have spoken to other junior mining companies and have encouraged them to come forward to let us give this regulation a certain test which would assist the deputy in his work. He may be asking, I might add Mr. Speaker, for an extension to the time period that was given to him when the committee was established because of the complexities and the delays of dealing with specific issues.

[3:00]

Mr. Reid: One short supplementary: Is the minister aware that there hasn't been much activity because junior mining companies, or people who would like to form junior mining companies, cannot get any assistance through the Ontario Securities Commission as to who the people are who can help them follow the new regulations?

Further, would the minister not agree that it is going to put the small developer, the small explorer, the small prospector out of work and, in fact, put all of mining into the hands of the large companies in Ontario and that the little man, the individual, is going to be put right out of the picture?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the hon. member is aware that without the risk capital that we have had in the north we wouldn't have the prospectors or the junior mining companies that we have had in the past. As a government we certainly want to maintain that thrust. However, on the other side of the ledger there is the responsibility to the general public and we have seen what

has happened in the past when things do get a little free and a little loose.

I can only say to the hon. member that I have been in touch with some of the junior mining companies. I have encouraged them to come ahead; we want to try and resolve this situation and assist them as much as possible in breaking down the red tape or the various hoops they have to jump through to get the financing on the way. I can assure the hon. member that we are working on it very sincerely.

FOREST FIRES

Mr. Lane: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Natural Resources if he can make any further report on the forest fire situation in northern Ontario that is of such vital concern to so many people?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I suspect the hon. member's concern is about a fire around White River. We have two fires there that have come together to form about 800 acres. It has jumped Highway 17 and is giving us some concern.

At the present time we have 77 fires burning in the Province of Ontario. There were 24 new ones overnight; 25 were extinguished yesterday; and to date we have 714 fires that have burned or are burning in this particular province.

I might add, as a matter of interest to the hon. members, we had what has been reported as our first fatality. A contract aircraft went down north of Red Lake and the initial reports are that one passenger is dead and three others are hospitalized and I will have further information on that particular accident later today.

We have well over 800 emergency forest fire workers in the field today and the members will be interested to know that at this point in time we have over 66 miles of hose scattered across northern Ontario in our efforts to put out these fires. That includes 109 pumps and about 760 shovels and I might just take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to commend the staff—not only of my ministry, but those we have engaged to assist us in fighting forest fires—because they have contained many of the forest fires in spite of the adverse weather conditions and the lack of rain. To them, all of whom have given many hours—some have worked as many as 20 hours a day—I want to just compliment them and thank them on behalf of the people of the Province of Ontario.

KUSTOM ENTERPRISES

Mr. Deans: I have a question of the Solicitor General. Will the Solicitor General meet with his colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman), and determine the best way to investigate Kustom Enterprises in Hamilton? This firm apparently owns a number of moving companies and it is alleged that those moving companies are in competition one with the other—none of them is registered in the Province of Ontario. Could such an investigation also determine what role a Mr. Greathead plays in the operations of the company, to ascertain whether or not he is in fact a shareholder or a paid employee, and whether he does in fact also collect social and family benefits at the same time?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, the question poses a number of questions and I assume the member is suggesting there is some criminal fault there. I would be—

Mr. Deans: I am.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth:—be glad to receive from the member any information that he has in regard to such criminality and we can investigate that on our own without the help of my colleague, sir.

Mr. Deans: A supplementary question: Will the minister also address himself to the whole matter of rigged bids with regard to the companies involved when they are competing one against the other and the bids being given to the consumer attempting to find a moving company to move them are padded for the benefit of the parent Kustom Enterprises operation?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: That can be included.

MILK PRODUCTION

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food, to get this farm stabilization off to a good start.

In view of the fact that another 500 dairy farmers turned out in Atwood last night, very disturbed that this government, through IMPIP loans, encouraged them to go into the dairy business and allows them to put their milk on the market with no return—this is a very weird situation—would the Minister give the Ontario Milk Marketing Board authority to allot a yearly quota to

these new shippers and those which expanded production last year, based on the last three months' production, to let these farmers know they have a quota and if they are efficient they will be able to stay in business? Will the government buy any surplus milk it creates under this allotted quota, which could be covered with real quota coming in from can shippers and older dairy farmers going out of business? Further, to complement this and speed up the return of the real quota coming to the Ontario Milk Marketing Board, would the government give an extra two cents a pound to the three cents the OMMB is paying to get real quota returned now?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for that oration. I would be glad to start—

Some hon. members: "Ortation?"

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. S. Smith: "Ortation?" Is that irritation?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to try to answer the question. I would like to tell the member that the Province of Ontario introduced the IMPIP, the industrial milk incentive programme, which ran out last June. There were no more applications received after June. I heard about the meeting last night—

Mr. Breithaupt: So there!

Hon. W. Newman: —without that programme in place we would not have begun to reach—

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: It's not really funny. You don't understand the farmer's problems. Few of these fellows do and therefore—

Mr. MacDonald: The real problem is you.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: Without this programme in place we would have lost a lot of our milk production to other provinces this year. As it was, we increased our production to meet 97 per cent of the objective set by Ottawa for us to reach in the Province of Ontario. As a result of the cutbacks of 18 per cent brought in by Ottawa across the country and because of the efficiency of the producers of our province—

Mr. S. Smith: The Attorney General likes them. He is the only guy around who likes them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: —we only had to take a 15 per cent cutback.

Mr. Good: What about the five cents instead of three cents per quota pound?

Hon. W. Newman: I am also concerned about the fact that there was such a large cutback. I sent Mr. Whelan a Telex suggesting that we could have a different situation this fall depending on weather conditions. I suggested to him at that time—

Mr. MacDonald: The answer is as long as the question.

Hon. W. Newman: —that they should cut back from 18 per cent to a lower percentage so it would not affect the producers that much. I also suggested to him, by Telex at that time that the massive surpluses of powdered milk should go back to the farmers on a pro rata basis so they can use it for feed.

I also set up, in the IMPIP project, a four-month period during which no payments need to be made until Sept. 1, to give the producers a chance to look at their problem and see how they could resolve it. Also, because of the cutback at the federal level I allowed the forgivable portion of the loan to be applied against the present quota they have so they would lose nothing there.

I have also talked to the chairman of the Milk Marketing Board. I have talked to the Ontario Milk Commission about this and I realize the seriousness of the problem. The Ontario Milk Marketing Board has many appeals before it at this point in time and many requests for quotas. I understand the forms are out now. Until they have heard some of the appeals at the Ontario Milk Marketing Board and at the Ontario Milk Commission, it will be very difficult to know exactly what we can do. I have arranged a meeting with the Ontario Milk Marketing Board and the Ontario Milk Commission at the earliest date possible for all of us to get together—a full board meeting and a full commission meeting with me—to discuss this very serious problem—

Mr. Renwick: You think you are addressing them now?

Mr. Singer: This isn't turning into a debate, is it, Mr. Speaker? That's against the rules.

Hon. W. Newman: I'm aware of the problems the milk producers are faced with, those producers who have been in business for two years and the seriousness of the situation.

Mr. Lewis: Tell me about one issue you've solved.

Hon. W. Newman: I will be sitting down with them to discuss the problem—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: —the mutual problems to try to resolve some of these problems for the dairy farmers of this province who have done a great job.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. No supplementaries, thank you.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Really, the question period is to ask for information and that was a long rambling statement and proposal which was not a question, quite frankly. It required—

Mr. Singer: It required?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: It elicited and perhaps required the same sort of answer.

Order, please. We've covered the field on that question and the question period has expired.

Mr. Singer: Why don't we just cancel the debate on the estimates?

Mr. Lewis: Why do you allow a question if you feel it's out of order when asked?

Mr. Speaker: There was not just one offender in that question and answer.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would ask all members to monitor their own questions. You really should know by now when a question is in order. It's supposed to be a question kept as brief as possible, not three questions in one, repetitive and so on. Surely, we don't have to preach every day?

Mr. Lewis: We may have to have a coup d'état around here.

Mr. Speaker: Petitions.
Presenting reports.
Motions.
Introduction of bills.

FARM INCOME STABILIZATION ACT

Hon. W. Newman moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting Farm Income Stabilization.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

CREDIT UNIONS ACT

Hon. Mr. Handleman moved first reading of bill intituled, the Credit Unions Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

TRAVEL INDUSTRY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Handleman moved first reading of Bill intituled, An Act to amend the Travel Industry Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

CORPORATIONS TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Meen moved first reading of Bill intituled, An Act to amend the Corporations Tax Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.
[3:15]

Hon. Mr. Meen: As already announced by my colleague, the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), this bill raises from \$100,000 to \$150,000 the amount on which small businesses that are eligible for the small business deduction, permitted by section 125 of the Income Tax Act (Canada), may compute the three per cent reduction in corporation tax permitted by section 106(a) of the Corporations Tax Act, 1972, as re-enacted this spring to implement part of the Treasurer's budget, as I mentioned, introduced in April.

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I wish to table the answers to questions 44, 68 and 83 standing on the notice paper. (See appendix, page 2918).

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day:

Clerk of the House: The 17th order, House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND RECREATION (concluded)

Mr. Chairman: It is understood there is a limited amount of time left for the estimates of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, and the minister is here. We had passed vote 2804; so remaining to be considered are votes 2805, 2806 and 2807; the latter being Wintario.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Chairman, before we start, may I ask a question of procedure on the remaining votes?

Mr. Chairman: It is my understanding there is one hour left, is that right?

Mr. Samis: Ninety minutes.

Mr. Chairman: One hour and a half, and I am in the hands of the committee as to how they want to use it.

Mr. Kerrio: I would just like to make one comment, that the proceedings that have transpired so far have had time usage of something like 34 per cent to the government, 46 per cent to the NDP and some 16 per cent to the Liberals. I am willing to pass that for what it's worth, but I would like some direction from the Chair that there is going to be a little more meaningful division of the time.

Mr. Chairman: That is up to the committee themselves to discipline themselves in a way there is a proper allocation of time, unless you want me to impose constraints, which is something that the Chair has never done.

Mr. B. Newman: Then are you going to allow one individual to speak for a whole half hour rather than share the time equally between the three parties? I think that should be understood, that each party should have a share of the time, and not all go to one party.

Mr. Chairman: If the members of the committee want the Chair to be arbitrary, you had better set down some guidelines. I think it is up to each individual member to discipline himself or herself for a fair allocation of the time.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Chairman, I suggest the time that is remaining, which will be until 5 o'clock—

Mr. Samis: Until 5 or 4:45?

Mr. Breithaupt: I believe it will be until approximately that time. It could well be divided with a half hour perhaps on the remaining votes and then the agreed-upon balance of the time dealing with the Wintario project. I think the matter should be resolved quite nicely that way.

Mr. Samis: Could I speak to that, Mr. Chairman? The Liberal critic and I spoke about this during question period and we agreed, with your permission and the permission of the minister, that we would allow a maximum of 20 minutes per vote until Wintario; and the remaining time after 40 minutes had passed, regardless of where we are, would be devoted to the Wintario vote.

I would ask the minister if he would agree to that. The Liberal critic has already agreed to that proposal.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I would be glad to refrain from any answers if it would make any difference.

On vote 2805:

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Cornwall, and I hope he will allow for a fair allocation of the time between the parties.

Mr. Samis: I always do, Mr. Chairman. May I suggest, in the interest of time, that I will ask a series of questions and ask the minister to respond? I would ask the minister to answer the questions directly rather than lead us about and astray and beyond.

On the first item—I would like to ask the minister if he is going to listen to what I'm going to ask or not?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes.

Mr. Samis: Can the minister, first of all, explain what exactly the role of the Ontario Provincial Library Council is, who they are accountable to and with whom they communicate? Second, can the minister tell us what position you are taking or planning to take on the major recommendations of the Bowron report? Third, what position will you be taking specifically on the recommendations regarding franco-Ontarians in that report? Fourth, can you tell us what action your ministry is taking to ensure that Ontario libraries have an adequate selection, of Cana-

dian books, especially in the fields of literature and history? Five, can the minister tell us if he is still opposed to the capital grants for libraries, even in economically distressed areas of the province? Sixth, could the minister tell us what the status of the special grants for francophone collections in this province is as of today, and whether or not you will be reviving or reinstituting those particular grants?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, very quickly, the council to which reference is made is an advisory council to the minister and, indeed, was established some years ago for that particular purpose.

On the Bowron report—the next two questions, two and three, which of course are about the same report—I do have that report now. I've made it quite clear on a number of public occasions that I want some time to transpire in order to provide the library community and municipal governments and people generally interested in that, an opportunity to respond to those particular recommendations and to share with me their advice with respect to that.

On the capital grants ; we don't have any particular capital grants programme, although we do have some moderate way of helping in the financing of debentures in this particular issue. You will also know, in studying the Wintario programme, that the libraries of the province are qualified under that particular programme for capital assistance.

The Canadian book question that was raised, of course, is part of the Wintario programme as well, whereby we are providing some special grants for the acquisition by our libraries of Canadian material.

Mr. Samis: Could you answer the last question on francophone collections?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The question was with respect to the amount of money which was specifically being provided to our libraries for—

Mr. Samis: It wasn't the amount—sorry, Mr. Chairman—it was the status of those grants. Have they been discontinued, are they to be revived; or what?

Hon. Mr. Welch: If you could just give me a moment, I'll get back to that question. Could we have the other questions now?

Mr. Samis: Mr. Chairman, I think we'll do this item by item, if that meets with your approval. Maybe that will guarantee equity for my colleague on the other side.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Chairman, in this particular vote, I have one concern I would like to direct to the minister. I have some communication from the municipal liaison committee on financing of library boards and it is my concern that the conditions that are attached to library grants should possibly be discontinued and that these grants be deconditionalized to libraries. I wonder if the minister would advise if that, in fact, is in the offing?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Do I understand the hon. member to be asking me, Mr. Chairman, whether or not there is to be any proposed change with respect to the amount of the grant? No, we don't—

Mr. Kerrio: Excuse me; the conditioning of the grants—conditionalizing of the grants.

Hon. Mr. Welch: No, as far as I'm concerned, they leave us as a conditional grant.

To go back to the question with respect to franco-Ontarian material, that particular programme was discontinued two years ago. Last year it was a Canadiana emphasis, and of course this year we're following the Canadiana emphasis throughout the Wintario programme.

Mr. B. Newman: In an attempt to assist Canadian writers, is the ministry purchasing certain Canadian books and distributing them throughout the libraries of the province?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The ministry itself makes no purchases. The applications for these special programmes would come from the libraries, which would make their own purchases.

Mr. Chairman: Any further comments?

Mr. Samis: Can I ask the minister now if he has the answer to that final question I posed.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Sorry, I gave it just a few moments ago but I will repeat it.

Mr. Samis: I'm sorry.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The francophone programme was discontinued about two years ago. Last year we had the Canadiana programme. This year both programmes are now being continued under the Wintario grant.

Mr. Chairman: Shall item 1 carry? Agreed to. Item 2, community information.

Mr. Samis: On item 2 I would like to ask the minister if he can tell us, in view of the overall government policy of restraints and in view of the overall budget of this ministry,

why, specifically, was it decided that the cut-backs were to be in OECA and not some other part of this ministry or some other programme. Why was this one singled out?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I suppose, to explain government policy in this sphere, there was a proposal before us with respect to implementing what had been announced insofar as this extension was concerned. We'd had certain representations made to us for curtailment and postponement of some of our programmes. This was a large item and it was decided that for the time being we would postpone this particular expansion as far as the north was concerned.

However, as I indicated—and I say this quite briefly, but I do draw attention to the fact—because of negotiations that were carried out subsequent to that decision having been taken, we will have the microwave system in place. Although we will not be on a broadcast operation as far as this part of the province is concerned—and that's regrettable, I don't disagree—we will have some limited service available because of arrangements we are making with cable.

I would think it's important to know that, within the framework of what could have been the actual financial costs of the postponement in view of contracts with Bell Telephone, we are able to salvage most—in fact, all—of that money by having the microwave system in place. When there is some relaxation with respect to the financial situation, we can then consider following the steps which would have been carried out had we not had to defer.

Mr. Samis: Let me just say again that we on this side feel the amount saved is minuscule in terms of the damage done to the people of the north, especially the young people.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I know the hon. member doesn't want to be provocative and get into a debate—

Mr. Samis: No, no.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —but I think it's important to recognize that we're talking about the Ontario Educational Communications Authority. As far as the school system is concerned, the school children in this part of the province will have access to programmes in the way that a lot of school systems have, even in the broadcast operation, with the tapes and with the TV system, so it's not as if—

Mr. Samis: They are still being deprived of something.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I know, but it's not as if the school children in these areas are going to be deprived of any of the programme material from OECA. It's unfortunate—and I underline this—it's unfortunate that in the broader community, the non-institutional community and the open sector, there will be some obvious limitations felt by those who won't have access to some of the programming that would be available had we been on full broadcasts.

Mr. Samis: I think the minister is well aware of the limitations of cable TV in the north. Could I ask, what can the people of the north realistically look forward to in view of the fact that the facilities are there though they are not going to be used? Can you give them any assurance as to a commitment from this government to develop the existing facilities, or is this being put into semi-permanent cold storage? What assurance do they have?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I'd be less than responsible if I attempted to play around with dates, but certainly there is nothing in the government's announcement as of now and the policy declaration that would indicate to the people in this area—and other areas in the evolution of the growth of the system that we don't plan eventually to complete the network. It's simply a postponement.

Mr. R. S. Smith: The member for Cornwall has covered a number of questions that I was going to ask, but there is the question of the number of people who are going to be reached on cable. You say the school system will be serviced and that's at a cost to the local school system to some extent. But in fact in the Sudbury area, for example, where there are 150,000 people, under this system perhaps one-fifth of those people will be serviced by cable and, of course, they will have to be paying for it. So the people who may benefit—and I say may benefit—most by educational TV are, in fact, being deprived of its use, because in most of those areas cable either does not serve or the people can't afford to buy it. So the people who do suffer are really the people who need it the most, and those who are more affluent and perhaps do not need what can be provided through ETV are not going to receive it.

[3:30]

I understand the minister's statement that eventually it will be completed, and I accept that, but why was it that the system in northern Ontario was put in a secondary position to the extension of the system into the London-Chatham-Windsor areas when you obviously had the choice of going ahead with one or going ahead with the other?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I'm glad that question's been asked. I want to say, as I respond to it briefly, in the first part of the hon. member's comments there is nothing that I can say, in a factual way, to disagree with the more limited approach which the present system is going to impose. That's just a matter of fact that those who have access to it will have to be on cable. I suppose it's the way you look at these things, either from a positive or a negative way, when the decision was taken to defer we were prepared simply to defer.

I think it's fortunate that we were able to find, in some negotiation subsequent to that decision, that it was in the framework of what the cost of deferment was going to involve us in, that we were able to put a microwave system in, and although the access as far as the open sectors are concerned will be limited by cable and everybody is not going to see it, please don't lose sight of the fact that we, in fact, will have that system in and we will still hold the licences for the transmitters.

As far as the order by which the expansion was to go, I think it's generally known that the authority, in its earlier stages, had considered this expansion ahead of the expansion to which the hon. member has just made reference. It became one of the accidents, I understand, with respect to the availability of channels, if that's the proper word. It became obvious that certain channels in the southwest were up and there were some applications. It is my understanding from the information that I received from the board that because of this new development they had to rearrange their priorities in order to take advantage of openings that were available to the authority in other parts of the province.

I would have assumed that, had that not happened, in fact the area being deferred would have been other than what's happened, but I do remind the hon. member, as I do members of this committee, that one of the conditions for the province being involved in this activity was that there be a separate authority in order to make these particular decisions, and on the basis of the evidence which members of that independent authority had at that time, these in fact were the priorities as far as the expansion was concerned.

I do know, too, that if we were starting afresh and all things were equal, which, of course, they weren't at that time with respect to the availability of hardware and other facilities, the whole operation might well have started in the north.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I understand that but could you explain to me what the cost was? You had already entered into contracts, as I understand it, to provide the facility in the northeastern part of the province. Are you indicating to us that the provision of the service as it now will be is equal to the cost of opting out of those contracts and that there is a trade-off here and that there will not be any specific costs to the province insofar as those contracts that had been entered into are concerned?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The actual costs that we provided for and which we thought would be the result of the cancellation, if memory serves me correctly, was about \$900,000.

Mr. R. S. Smith: That's right.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It's been possible for something less than that, and in our negotiations to at least put in place the system to which I made reference, the agreements—I don't have them here—with some of the private carriers do make some provision as to what might happen if we go on to broadcast as opposed to some other system.

The point I was trying to make is that although it looked at the first stage that it would cost us \$900,000 by virtue of cancellation fees, we, for something less than that, have been able to negotiate to utilize the Bell service and to put this particular service in place, notwithstanding the fact that, as the hon. members have so correctly pointed out, it would have some restrictions with respect to viewership because it will be limited to the cable people.

Mr. R. S. Smith: In actual fact, the cost of \$900,000 was wiped out and you did then go to the agreement with Bell at a lesser cost than that?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I wouldn't want to leave that misunderstanding. What I'm saying is that, rather than there being an expenditure of that amount of money for which we would have nothing to show other than a release from an agreement, we were able to spend not quite that much—and so it's money which isn't spent—in connection with these negotiations and to have the microwave system in place and the arrangements with the private carriers.

Mr. R. S. Smith: What will happen to that microwave system when you pass on in to the regular system which was first promised and which you say will come eventually? Is the microwave system just a rented system that will then go back?

Hon. Mr. Welch: No. That system will then be there as the base to transmit the signal and would go the broadcasting operation; it is something which would have to be in place anyway.

Mr. Kerrio: My colleague has touched on a portion of OECA that I have in my presentation, so I will just pass through that. Of the \$12.1 million expenditure for community information, \$10.4 million is going to OECA. I would just like to remind the minister of OECA's mandate. It has the responsibility to provide educational opportunities to all the people of Ontario using the electronic and associated media. It's a formidable challenge, not only because it implies that there will be universal access to the learning materials developed, but also that these materials will be of such character and quality as to stimulate, provoke and engage individuals who will come from varying backgrounds, experiences and interests.

That portion that I had proposed here to relate in the consideration of those areas in the north have already been the subject of my colleague's debate. I would then like to bring into focus that it appears that the implementation of the network first in the Toronto area has resulted in programming that has swayed from the original educational content in order to compete for the audience with the many private sector stations in the area. The results have been such movies as "King Kong," "The Most Dangerous Game," "Manhunt" and this type of movie, all contributing to violence in the media that everyone is so concerned about today and that the government has set up a mandate to investigate.

Mr. Nixon: It's all right. They hired Judy LaMarsh right after to comment on that.

Mr. Kerrio: This is an unfortunate turn of events from the educational purpose this network was set up to serve. I would advocate a hard look at its programming with the possibility of a complete revamping of scheduling before any more funds are extended to it; \$10 million is just too much money for all the taxpayers of this province to spend on a station that is merely in competition with all the private stations in the southern part of the province. You have no doubt been made aware of the feelings of the residents of northern and eastern Ontario from the briefs that have been submitted, and I don't have to elaborate on those. And as I said before, I have to skip parts of my presentation because of my colleague's presentation.

I would just like to bring one more area into focus and that is, the lack of women's programming. I would like to quote from the green paper on equal opportunities for women done in 1973 by the present minister when he was the Provincial Secretary for Social Development. One of the main proposals contained in this report was for an expanded programme of career counselling for women, including utilization of daytime television for this purpose.

One recommendation stated:

We recommend that the provinces and territories in co-operation with universities arrange that educational television programmes, including credit as well as non-credit courses at elementary, secondary, general and technical college and university levels, be televised at hours when both housewives and women in the labour force can take advantage of them.

I won't continue too far along this vein. I would like to get your reaction on that.

The other particular question that I would ask for, if you have the figure, would be the advertising costs in this particular segment of the ministry, as it relates to educational television or the mandate that we have there in TV Ontario. As I said before, because of the time constraint, I would ask those two major questions if I might have an answer.

Hon. Mr. Welch: With respect to the educational quality of the broadcasting as opposed to merely entertainment, the private sector did lodge some concern with the CRTC in this matter which was referred back to the authority itself. The board of OECA has reviewed its programming and it is my understanding that it has made a considered determination that all the programming of OECA is educational.

I suppose we get into some nice definitions of what is educational but because it happens to be entertaining, it certainly doesn't make it less educational I suppose. Once again, it certainly is not the desire of the educational authority to be in competition with the private sector. I would have to rely on the judgement of the board that it is discharging its responsibilities as set out in the Act to which the hon. member has made reference.

I appreciate the fact that the hon. member, in the second place, has made reference to the establishment of the advisory council on women. I do know, on the basis of correspondence which I have seen very recently, that the chairman of the board and its mem-

bers have met with the advisory council. Although I suppose there is always room for improvement—always room for more and one should never consider this job done nor the importance of keeping this emphasis before government and its agencies ever really less—at the time being I have reason to believe, on the basis of what I have read, that there is general satisfaction with what the authority has been doing and is doing.

Thirdly, reference has been made to advertising. It's my information that about \$150,000 is allocated for advertising along with support material for adults.

Mr. Nixon: If I may just comment briefly, particularly on the minister's last statement, one of the things which has changed in ETV since its inception is that the direction of the whole thing now lies in a ministry other than one directly connected with capital E—Education. I know the minister is quite prepared, as am I and others, to say that almost all the programming coming from ETV is educational in some sense or another, but it concerns me, particularly when we see the report, which, I suppose, has been pretty largely discredited in this area, of the special programme review, chaired by the Treasurer himself, and the recommendations that he and they have made having to do with these expenditures.

I will just take a moment; I know the member for Cornwall is anxious to proceed with other important matters. We are asked to vote about \$11 million here for the administration and the machinery of ETV; and Education will be asked to vote and additional \$7.5 million. These are not the same dollars; those are additional dollars—are they not?—so it is about \$18.5 million that we are directing toward ETV in this year of restraint and constraint.

We have a clear recommendation from the special programme review—some of those recommendations I can't support for many reasons but I will tell you some of them do appeal to me very much. One of the warnings sounded by the committee chaired by the Treasurer comes from page 328:

An added concern is that this form of education is being provided by an agency of the government outside the direct jurisdiction of the ministries that have been assigned responsibility for education.

Such a situation provides open sector education with its own dynamic and thereby inexorable capacity for increased costs.

I feel that some of that inexorable pressure is being exerted on the minister and by the minister on us.

I may be accused of being what you call conservative—God forbid—in expressing some of these views but I have felt that the only justification for educational television from the first was to assist in the formal aspects of education. I can remember the debates across the floor of this House with the former minister, now the Premier, on the necessity for bringing second and third language education directly into the schoolroom using educational television. At that time, it was the only means whereby French education of any quality at all could be brought into a large proportion of the schools of this province at the lower grades.

We have watched this authority with its continuing excellent administrative leadership in which I personally have a great deal of confidence, and I am glad to see Mr. Ranald Ide here. I use to meet him when we were both more directly associated with classroom teaching. We now see a request and, I suppose, an approval of close to \$19 million for what is essentially a new educational but also a programming network. Unfortunately, the strength of your signal doesn't quite get to South Dumfries; are they now on top of the tower?

[3:45]

Mr. Samis: Yes.

Mr. Kerrio: Yes.

Mr. Nixon: Maybe if I fine-tune, I will be able to pick up the rerun of my good friend, Judy LaMarsh, interviewing my good friend, Joey Smallwood—

Mr. Samis: We'll have to cut the rest.

Mr. Nixon: —obviously educational and no doubt to some degree entertaining. But I would say to you, we already have one public broadcasting system in this nation. We're very proud of it. I've got lots of criticisms for the CBC; I wish that it had retained its public nature more directly. But I would sound another warning from, I suppose, the rather conservative philosophical part of the world, if not of the political spectrum, and say that what we are now moving into here is certainly another entertainment, albeit educational entertainment, network.

I hope you put it in the north, and I hope you put it in Chatham and all the rest, but I am very much concerned as to the quality and value of what is being presented.

"Magic Shadows"? Great! Actually, you can get the ABC Tuesday Night Movie from time to time up our way, you know. We do have access to this sort of thing.

Now in the north it is restricted and I would certainly join with the member for Nipissing and others who have said probably the emphasis ought to be there, rather than to give another channel, which is in many respects becoming commercial, if it is not commercial dollar-wise, right here in the Toronto area.

I regret to some extent that the minister and his advisers haven't paid more attention to the recommendations from the Hon. Mr. McKeough and Henderson and some of those other people. I think some of their ideas are bad, but in this connection I am telling you that I think their ideas have been rational and that it would have behooved the government to ask us for something considerably less than \$18.5 million for this.

An hon. member: Right.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I'm sure it comes as no surprise that I don't necessarily agree with what the hon. member has said. As far as his reference—

Mr. Nixon: What about the hon. member for Chatham?

Hon. Mr. Welch: No, I don't agree with that recommendation, particularly.

Mr. Nixon: He's the chairman of the committee that recommended—

Hon. Mr. Welch: So I'm entitled to respond. I think the government responds.

Mr. Nixon: So what?

Mrs. Campbell: So what?

Hon. Mr. Welch: As far as mushrooming costs go, it's a six per cent increase over last year. Hardly a very big mushroom.

Mr. Nixon: This is a lot of money.

Hon. Mr. Welch: And the other point that I would mention too, is that the hon. member carries—

Mr. Nixon: It's growing out of proportion.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member has asked some questions. Do the courtesy of allowing the minister to reply.

Mr. Nixon: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It's obvious now that the hon. member, with less pressure, appears to

have more time to watch television than he used to—

Mr. R. S. Smith: If you don't watch out, Darcy will give you more time.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —and I would point out under the circumstances that he carries with him, obviously as well, a bias for the more institutional approach as far as education is concerned. There are many people outside of the establishment, outside of educational institutions today, who may well want to engage in the learning process. I have figures to indicate, on the basis of some research, that one out of two adults want to participate in learning. I think we have some responsibility—

Mr. Nixon: Well, I would think it would be higher than that. I have never met one yet who didn't want to participate.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —to respond to that need and certainly, although there will be some curtailment, I hardly think that the hon. member would want to identify himself with restricting access only to the established institutions.

Certainly, the Ministry of Education, with which I've got some experience, is a customer of this authority and advises with respect to school programming, but I do think we have some responsibility to the larger community as well.

Mr. Chairman: Shall item 2 carry? Carried.

Item 3, Youth services.

Mr. B. Newman: I won't be long on this because of the limit on time.

Mr. Samis: Ten minutes.

Mr. B. Newman: Can I ask the minister how the various programmes that are accepted by your ministry are finally decided on? Does the minister sort of quota each of the municipalities in the system for X amount of dollars and once you reach that total amount then no more programming will be accepted into that area?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The hon. member is making reference, Mr. Chairman, is he, to the programmes that were finally approved under this item?

Mr. B. Newman: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Of course, we, as a ministry, undertook the co-ordination and the planning responsibilities within our own ministry as to what the programmes would be

as far as Experience '76 was concerned. Then, on the basis of these particular programmes, we had our field staff making recommendations to us. In fact, I'm just in the process now of signing a number of letters on the recommendation of staff as to which of these Experience '76 programmes have been approved and in what amount.

Mr. B. Newman: Do you set a limit as to the amount of expenditures from the one given area?

Hon. Mr. Welch: You mean on a regional basis?

Mr. B. Newman: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I can't share with you exactly how that breakdown would come out, but there would be some deliberate attempt to make sure there was an equitable distribution of these funds.

Mr. B. Newman: As soon as you accept a programme, could we get the information that the programme has been accepted and the number of job opportunities that are going to be available? I have students contacting me all the time and I know nothing of the programme until after it has been accepted and after everyone has been hired.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I'm wondering if I could share this with you, that as far as these estimates are concerned, in this programme we're talking in terms of 2,811 jobs. I can give you a breakdown into the general areas; the figures give some indication as to what we do this year on the basis of the type of programming that went on in these areas in previous years.

Hon. B. Newman: The only thing is that I never hear of the programme up until the time it has been accepted; I don't even know how many people are going to be hired. I'd like to—

Mr. Samis: On a point of order.

Mr. Chairman: What is the point of order?

Mr. Samis: Mr. Chairman, could I point out to my colleague from Windsor that we made an agreement that we would wind all this up within 40 minutes, which leaves less than 10 minutes for the next vote, as he can see, to guarantee us one hour on Wintario? Could I ask him to co-operate in that agreement so that we could get on to that vote?

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Chairman, I've only asked questions. I haven't gone into a long dissertation.

Mr. Samis: You've taken time; that's what you've done.

Mr. B. Newman: So have you taken time.

Mr. Samis: No, not today, my friend.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. We are dealing with vote 2805, item 3, youth services. Any further comment?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I don't want to invoke the wrath of the member for Cornwall, but if I have misunderstood the question of the member for Windsor-Walkerville and if he wants to know exactly how many jobs have been provided in his area, I'll be glad to get that information for him.

Mr. B. Newman: I have that information.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Then if he asked me how many jobs this money creates in these particular programmes—

Mr. B. Newman: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —I just told him, 2,811.

Mr. B. Newman: Okay.

Vote 2805 agreed to.

On vote 2806:

Mr. Chairman: There are four items in vote 2806 and they seem to be somewhat related. Shall we take them in total?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Chairman, it's ironical that because of the time constraints, we have less than 10 minutes for this particular vote, which has the tie into the transfer payments to municipalities; and municipalities, to my way of thinking—and I think the minister and his staff would agree with me—are the key focal points for culture and recreation development in this province. I think it is also ironical that only 1/12th of our provincial tax dollars goes to municipalities to assist them in developing sports, fitness, culture, recreation—whatever label you want to put on it.

I think a lot of work needs to be done in terms of revamping regulation 200. I realize that some groups have made submissions to you, and I would ask that you give them strong consideration. The amounts presently going to individual communities from the province are very small indeed and in a lot of cases do nothing more than pay for the paperwork that accompanies them. If we are truly to have a municipally based programme of recreation, we must provide them with the funds; and in these times of constraint,

the funds for recreation purposes are being much more constrained than they are for social services or any of the other aspects of municipal government, particularly for roads and sewers, which always seem to get a higher priority in the minds of municipal councils.

I think too that in dealing with regulation 200, which provides the funding for the municipalities, we must avoid deregulating it at this point in time. We must ensure that specific allotments from the province are directed toward recreation, as opposed to allowing municipalities free access to provincial moneys for any programmes; I think we would just see a continuation of the moneys towards sewer and water projects and what have you.

If I can sort of travel on into the next vote, the Wintario programme has adversely affected the role of the municipality inasmuch as a number of projects are being supported directly by Wintario in terms of capital funding and the municipalities in their wisdom do not have the funds to run or operate those facilities properly for the next five or 10 years. I think we're creating a very serious situation in that these communities, while they desperately need the kind of facilities that Wintario is able to provide them, and while they do have the private sector assistance from the major industries, particularly if it's a one-industry town, they don't have the municipal property tax funds to carry on the operation of a swimming pool or a major facility. It is a little different if you have got a small community centre addition, providing an extra room or what have you. I think that should be looked at in terms of the context of the transfer programmes. I think, too, again with the transfer payments, that Wintario should be redesigned to provide operating funds because there are times when municipalities do—

Mr. Chairman: That's the next vote.

Mr. Angus: I am speaking in context of this item and I just have one more minute. That's all I will take and I will get out of your hair. I think you could provide it that way, with a basis of partially through the transfer payments so that municipalities can control it, and partially in direct funding because there are some municipalities who would just completely ignore it.

I will elaborate on my remarks at some other time, because I had hoped to spend at least a half an hour. I have met with a number of people throughout the province and I think they deserve to have a hearing through

me, and either in the form of a letter or possibly during the budget speech I will elaborate on my remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Nipissing.

Mr. Samis: Three minutes.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Two minutes; I just have one question. I would like to find out what happened to the funds that came from the Olympic lottery and how they were divided up across the province. I find that they are still being handed out and they actually don't show at all in these estimates for either last year or this year. There are many people in the community who don't even know that these funds exist and there has been no indication to the communities across this province that there are funds available here.

Hon. Mr. Welch: May I make some reference to the hon. member for Fort William? I appreciate the interest which he has with respect to the recreation programmes as they are administered at the community level. I don't disagree with him with respect to the importance of that community base and, as he knows, being in recreation over the years, there have been efforts made through this particular area of this responsibility to reconsider a more meaningful way to get money to the municipalities than the present system known as regulation 200.

I have been at some discussions in connection with that and hopefully and eventually in consultation with various organizations in this field, we should be able to come up with something that is perhaps more supportive. As to the priorities, naturally I, having this responsibility, would hope that recreation would always demand a priority insofar as municipal service is concerned, and no doubt when we get to the next vote, in talking about Wintario and the possibilities of Wintario, I will share with the committee some of those concerns as well.

The hon. member for Nipissing raises some question about the Olympic lottery account. As you know, this was on the basis of an arrangement made with the Olympic lottery people for this money. Some criteria were developed at that time relating to sports governing bodies, travel, the facilities that were necessary to have programmes to develop excellence in certain fields and also in competitions. We have commitments or anticipated disbursements to date of some \$2,239,432 and we still have about \$1.5 million of uncommitted funds in this account. I would think, on the basis of this question being

raised, there has been no scarcity of information which has gone out to various organizations with respect to the availability of these moneys and the criteria by which they are, in fact, paid out. Both capital and non-capital disbursements have come from this particular account.

Mr. R. S. Smith: You say there is still \$1.5 million uncommitted?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes, in round figures. In my information, we have an uncommitted balance at the moment of about \$1.5 million.

Mr. B. Newman: A short question: Have you made the use of headgear compulsory for amateur boxers?

Hon. Mr. Welch: No, I would have been disappointed had this question not been asked, because at the moment I am still advised, and I have to rely on the advice that I get from others, that there has been no agreement reached with respect to that type of gear and so, therefore, there has been no effort to make the wearing of any headgear compulsory. I suppose we are waiting for some general agreement as to what would be satisfactory before we would give any further thought to moving into the compulsory area.

[4:00]

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Minister, I certainly hope you don't delay any longer, because you know yourself that boxing does have a harmful effect on the brain. In fact, a Dr. Nicholas Corcillis says in a short sentence:

When the boxers' brains were compared with those of "normal" men and women of similar ages, we found that those of boxers showed a significant pattern of degeneration and loss of nerve cells as well as other damage.

Let's protect our youth, our amateur boxer at least, by making the use of headgear compulsory.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes, we will continue working with the two organizations that should obviously be very interested in this.

Madam Acting Chairman: Is there any further discussion? Shall vote 2806 carry?

Vote 2806 agreed to.

On vote 2807:

Mr. Samis: Can I ask the minister, first of all, before we get on to the actual operation, can he clarify Wintario's policy vis-à-vis the draw coming up on June 24? Is it the Ontario Lottery Corp's policy to print extra tickets or not for this particular draw, since

there is an extra \$1 million being drawn? Is there a policy, and what is it?

Hon. Mr. Welch: What will happen, as far as I am advised, is that the unclaimed prize money, which was the subject matter of this special bonus, will go out in the regular way. That is, the tickets that are printed for that particular draw will have two numbers on the tickets, one number for the regular draw that is held every other Thursday, and the other number for the special bonus prizes of \$10 thousand each, that would be available through unclaimed funds.

Mr. Samis: But are we talking about the same number of tickets?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Oh, well—

Mr. Samis: Six point five approximately—

Hon. Mr. Welch: Oh no, as far as numbers of the series go, I imagine that it all depends on, of course, what the market will demand. But we're prepared to print extra tickets for that particular draw, naturally.

Mr. Samis: In effect, then, there will be more tickets printed, even though the money has been paid for the tickets that won those particular prizes, is that right?

Hon. Mr. Welch: There will be more tickets printed if the market can absorb more tickets. As far as this draw is concerned, of course, this is in order to release these moneys which haven't been claimed at the expiration of the year.

Mr. Samis: Let me suggest that if more tickets are being printed, that really is very unfair to the people who purchased the tickets, since those tickets have already been purchased and the prizes have been won according to those purchases. If the individuals haven't picked up those prizes, then I suggest the Lottery Corp., in fact, is making a killing on this and it is very unfair to the regular purchasers of Wintario tickets.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I just think perhaps the hon. member would want to have the record a bit balanced on this subject. For every series of tickets that is printed, automatically there is a new set of prizes that are set aside for each series. As I recall, there are 90,000 tickets to a series and there are all kinds of prizes—

Mr. Samis: What's the figure?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I can't read it, to tell you the truth.

Mr. Samis: Back to the optometrist.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It has now been translated. With every 90,000 tickets, there are automatically 450 prizes worth \$28,125. So, the number of series, if I can use the word odds keep the odds the same. What we're doing now is inviting the public to also have access to this additional money and this—

Mr. R. S. Smith: The odds are better—

Hon. Mr. Welch: —seemed to be the fair and equitable way to make it available. Anyone who bought tickets during the course of the year, where there were some prizes unclaimed, had the same chances of winning whether or not these particular prizes were claimed. If these prizes had been claimed they wouldn't have won either. So the fact that they didn't win had no relationship to the fact that the prizes weren't claimed.

Mr. Samis: Let me get on to some other matters with the existing operations, before we get on to the impact of the Wintario grants, etc. Can I ask you for clarification on the status of the existing distributorships, especially the 34, I believe it is, which were original with the inception of Wintario and which were essentially based on the Olympic lottery? How many service clubs applied for the existing 39 at the beginning? How many have applied for the vacancies which have been advertised? Can you tell us if it is now lottery corporation policy to advertise publicly and go to tender on all future vacancies in distributorships?

Hon. Mr. Welch: There are at the moment seven vacancies; five in the Metropolitan Toronto area, one in Paris and one in Windsor. As you know, an advertisement has appeared throughout the province inviting people who are interested in distributorships to apply and drawing particular reference to the seven vacancies. It is my understanding that ad produced about 3,000 applications. In those areas where there now are some immediate vacancies, the board is organizing itself to find some method by way of interview to fill finally those particular positions which will bring the distributorships up to full complement.

Mr. Samis: Could I get back to those existing distributorships? Since they were

based on the Olympic lottery and since your rationale for giving them out without any tender or competition was that you wanted to use the existing system established by the Olympic Loto people, what is the status of those distributorships? How long do those people have them for? Is it virtually in perpetuity? Is there any restriction whatsoever? Is there any opportunity for anyone else to bid on those distributorships or what?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The performance of all of our distributors is being reviewed. You are quite correct, that it was government policy, in order to get our own lottery started, to use the distribution system already in place. Of course, what happens after the Olympic lottery itself is over may depend to some extent on what interest some of these distributors might have if there is only the one lottery left, i.e., Wintario. I would assume the board would have to take a look at the distribution system with several alternatives in mind. If it is simply a matter of continuing Wintario itself, would there have to be a larger territory to support some type of—

Mr. Nixon: Yes, worrying about their support; it may not be worthwhile for them to continue.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —or rather to generate some income; all kinds of matters. I think it is important to know that as far as the activities and performances of distributors are concerned the board has always had this as a very high priority of interest and concern.

Mr. Samis: I appreciate the fact that their performance is monitored, whether it is by the courts or the lottery corporation of the Legislature, sometimes by the press. Could I ask again: What is the length of tenure of those existing distributorships? Is there any limitation on the people who got the original distributorships?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Their contracts don't specify any definite term. I think it is at the pleasure of the lottery corporation as long as they are performing their responsibilities to the satisfaction of the corporation.

Mr. Samis: If there was a reorganization of any sort then those distributorships could be put out to public tender, if the corporation were to decide to reorient the size of the districts or territories or to change the policy on who is eligible for distributorships. Is that right?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think the wording of the ad was very careful in that the lottery corporation, faced with the immediate need to fill seven vacancies, thought it would generally advertise the whole question of distributorships. They are quite satisfied now that they have a tremendous number of applications on record in response to that public invitation to apply. I would think that any vacancies in the future would no doubt be looked after simply by going to this particular source which will be in hand now.

Mr. Samis: Could I ask if there is any reconsideration being given to the policy that service clubs and public organizations are not allowed to become distributors? Have you reconsidered to the extent that, from these 3,000 applications, it is possible that service clubs will become distributors?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I know the interest of the hon. member with respect to this and it is my understanding from meetings which the lottery corporation itself has had with some of the service sector, the clubs are not particularly excited about being distributors as such because of the tremendous amount of work required to turn around in a lottery held as frequently as this.

There are two ways in which they are involved at the moment. No. 1 is the special consideration with a special commission at the retail level for clubs which was announced some time ago. There is an increasing number of service and fraternal organizations involved at the retail level at the regular commission rate, and indeed, are finding that a fairly lucrative occupation for their members.

Mr. Samis: I appreciate what the minister says, but I noticed a statement issued by the lottery corporation when they did finally apply for distributorships. The third paragraph said: "Wintario distributors are independent businessmen working on a commission basis." I get back to the same question: Would a service club that is willing to put up with all the responsibilities of operating a distributorship be eligible for distributorship, if it decides to go ahead, employ full-time staff and meet the ticket retail requirements? Would it be allowed?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The attitude of the lottery corporation to this stage, as I have already mentioned, has been that in discussions, once organizations such as the ones to which the hon. member is making reference were made fully aware of what was involved,

they have preferred to be involved in Winario at the retail level and not as distributors.

Mr. Samis: I don't want to beg the issue but you still haven't answered my question. Would they be allowed, even if you give them this talk and tell them all the problems and responsibilities? Would they be eligible if they decided to proceed?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think that would be a decision which the lottery corporation would have to make with respect to the individual distributorship, taking all the other facts into consideration. There is no directive as far as the lottery corporation is concerned that precludes anyone per se. The lottery corporation more positively lays down certain terms and conditions with respect to financial viability, the number of agents and the amount of advertising.

I suppose it would be fair, in response to the hon. member's question, to say that the lottery corporation would have to make that determination depending on how satisfactory the organization itself is and whether it can meet that obligation. After all, we do have one; Sport Ontario is one of the distributors and it's a non-profit organization.

Mr. Samis: So it would be fair to say, then, a service club would not be disqualified?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Not just because it was a service club.

Mr. Samis: All right.

Could I ask about some of the operations that were discussed in the press? Is it true that the lottery corporation still regards as one of the conditions of a distributorship that a distributor must sign an agreement saying that he will give no interviews to the media without the prior written consent of the lottery corporation?

Hon. Mr. Welch: That has never been the case. I thought I had sent, and I'm sorry, I'll send the hon. member a copy of the terms and conditions that involve distributorships. I think it was actually a suggestion by the management of the lottery corporation that when any questions with respect to its management were raised, those questions should quite naturally be referred to the lottery corporation. There is nothing to preclude a distributor from responding to any questions in connection with his own operation.

Mr. Samis: Are you saying, in effect, that the article on March 5 in the *Globe and Mail* is wrong when it says the very first condition is that a distributor give no interviews with-

out the prior written consent of the corporation? That is wrong?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I would assume, under the circumstances, that would all depend on what question was asked the distributor. Certainly, I don't want to be placed in the position of commenting on newspaper stories. What I have answered to the hon. member is that it is in fact the case that questions with respect to the operation of the corporation are referred to the corporation. There is nothing to preclude the individual distributor from answering any question he is asked with respect to his own operation. That is his decision.

Mr. Samis: Could I ask what the lottery corporation is doing about two matters that were brought up? One is the policy of certain distributors to hire managers to run their particular distributorships while they are involved in other businesses, sometimes equally lucrative? Secondly, what has been done about the allegations by salesmen in three different areas—one of which is in my particular riding, one in Dundas and one in Windsor—about distributors forcing their salesmen to buy tickets in advance and in some cases forcing them to borrow money, cash savings bonds and make other arrangements about their mortgages? What has the lottery corporation done in regard to those allegations?

Hon. Mr. Welch: As far as the specific arrangements are concerned, there are some distributors who require their salesmen to be insured or to be bonded. Others achieve the same type of cash control by prepayment for tickets. I think this is an arrangement which the distributors themselves enter into with their salesmen in order to protect the cash flow situation.

As you know, the transaction between the lottery corporation and the distributors is a cash arrangement. I suppose the distributor is very anxious to protect his financial position as far as dealing with his salesmen is concerned. They vary as between the distributors.

[4:15]

Mr. Samis: Any question about hiring managers and the lottery corporation's policy on that?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Actually, we have indicated to our distributors that these distributorships should be operated by them. Of course, the revision in the commission scale would ensure that that would more likely be the case in reality.

Mr. Samis: Could I ask if that had anything to do with the suspension of the distributorships to members in—I think it was the Etobicoke part of Toronto? Was that a fact their being suspended or denied their distributorships?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I am advised that they resigned.

Mr. Samis: Were they given a little incentive to resign?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Well—

Mr. Nixon: Like leaving a revolver on their desk?

Mr. R. S. Smith: Like fired?

Mr. Samis: Could I ask if you could clarify or clear up the whole matter about which I have asked your colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman), how it was that 23 distributors apparently did not get the official police clearance after they became distributors? What exactly was the foul-up and what have you done to make sure that never happens again?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think the most direct answer is to indicate to you that the requirement with respect to licensing was the agreement insofar as the Olympic distributors were concerned. How in fact, some of them got into that particular responsibility without having met that requirement I really don't know. As far as being a Wintario distributor is concerned there is no such requirement to have a licence from the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Mr. Samis: Could you give us an outline of what reforms you have made, in view of the tremendous number of applications for grants now and the amount of delay involved? Can you tell us what reforms you have made to ensure much speedier processing of applications and grants?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I am as concerned as any member of this House is with respect to the amount of time which transpires between the receipt of the application and the actual letter from the ministry as to whether or not the answer is yes or no with respect to that application.

We started off with the best intentions in the world, really trying to do more than the system could do with a very limited staff, in a central way. So we have introduced in the ministry a more decentralized approach where on receipt of the applications they are

directly referred to the particular divisions or areas of responsibility in the ministry which has some interest in that application. In addition to this, we have done something in the capital area; we have brought the capital people together in one place so that in fact applications for that type of support could be reviewed in that co-ordinated way as well.

We have been trying to turn these applications over more quickly. A lot of consultation has to be entered into. For instance, on applications for art support, we are anxious to have the input from the Arts Council and other areas. There is the consultation with our field staff. All of these particular steps result in the expiration of time and, of course, in most cases we are using the mail for this purpose and that also adds to our time problems.

So we have been attempting to speed things up. I think there are some improvements yet to be made. I am not particularly satisfied, and I know my staff is not particularly satisfied, and I say to their credit that they have done a tremendous job under very, very trying circumstances when you keep in mind they have other responsibilities as well. I think that they are to be commended because in this whole operation we have only increased the staff by about 12 people to do all this processing.

Mr. Samis: May I ask the minister if he can provide us with the up to date figures as of today on how much money has been committed, how much has actually been sent out, how much is in reserve and could he also tell us on what basis the calculations are made in the estimates that the revenue would be \$36 million for this upcoming fiscal year, especially in view of how excessively conservative the estimate was for the previous year?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Using the end of the fiscal year figures, the lottery revenue turned over by the Ontario Lottery Corp. to the consolidated revenue fund to the end of the fiscal year was \$42 million. The ministry grant commitments, and I underline commitments, to the end of the fiscal year was \$25,651,716. Actually paid out as of the end of the fiscal year was \$3,425,089.24. I could give you the breakdown of those payments, if you wanted, to show you how we've arrived at it.

A lot of these grant applications that are successful are in the term of conditional commitments. Once the parties have them, they have to meet those conditions, among them being the raising of money in the private sector. The demand for actual cash is usually

postponed and could well be drawn over a period of three or four years. That's why I prefer to use the term "commitments" in order to give you a clearer picture of where we are with respect to this programme.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. Before the hon. member continues, perhaps the Chair could make an observation. I don't like to interrupt the exchange between the hon. member and the minister, but I've been advised that there has been an undertaking between the various House leaders and caucuses to divide the time for this assessment of the estimates between the two opposition parties. I would draw to the attention of the hon. member that almost half of the time has expired and none of the members from the Liberal Party has had a chance to question the minister.

Mr. Samis: I'm well aware of the fact that we agreed that 30 minutes would be allotted to each party and I have used 20 minutes of the 30 allotted to this party. I'm very conscious of the number of questions and I'm sure my colleague from Niagara Falls will be getting his full 30 minutes. I have no intention of denying him that.

Mr. Kerrio: That is fair. If he wants to do it that way, he can use half of it.

Mr. Samis: Could I ask again how you calculated that figure of \$36 million in view of your previous, as I said, excessively conservative estimate? How did you get the figure of \$36 million?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. In the estimate, it's a very arbitrary figure. Last year's estimate, if memory serves me correctly, was \$20 million which was our estimate and we sure were under on that one. We took a look at the next year, and so we put \$36 million in, keeping in mind that the estimates are more from the standpoint of cash requirements than necessarily commitments. It will be very difficult for us, from the standpoint of actual cash, unless there was a great spree of building with respect to some of these conditional commitments, really to draw that much money anyway. So we have an arbitrary figure there which represents our best calculations of what the cash requirements might be.

Mr. Samis: Could I go through a series of questions, Mr. Chairman, to wind up my portion? Can you give us some indication if you intend to clarify the criteria or guidelines for

all these grants since there seems to be a considerably widespread feeling that they're very, very vague and people don't really know on what basis they're being refused or accepted? Have you given thought to the idea of allotting a fixed amount of the total Wintario funds to the Arts Council, a fixed percentage or amount for the arts and the professions? Could I ask if you've given any consideration to reserving a certain portion of the grants to the municipalities? Could I ask you if Wintario, in effect, is replacing some of these sports equipment grants under existing programmes? Could I ask what you're doing to improve co-ordination with the Arts Council and municipalities vis-à-vis arts programmes and recreational programmes in the province to avoid duplication and excessive burdens on the municipalities for operational purposes?

Hon. Mr. Welch: As far as the review of criteria is concerned, the answer is yes. We are very much involved in a complete review of the Wintario criteria. As far as the whole question of fixed amounts by way of transfer to the Arts Council and the municipalities, the answer to both those questions at this time would be no.

As far as sports equipment is concerned, I would think that the Wintario programme with respect to equipment will be the equipment programme insofar as the ministry is concerned. It seems to be an easier way to regulate it than to have two programmes related to equipment. As far as co-ordination is concerned, I'm glad you mentioned that because there is a great deal of co-ordination in the arts area, as I mentioned. All of this is done by way of consultation with the Arts Council.

We've had a number of meetings with respect to the Ontario municipal recreation associations. As far as the overall relationship there is concerned, it's one that I would like to dwell on at some length and perhaps we could discuss that at another time. I was impressed by what the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. Angus) mentioned in that regard as well. I think the important thing here, and I say this quite quickly, is that at the moment we are responding to initiatives that are coming to us from the communities of the province. I think in these early stages of Wintario I'd like to preserve that relationship before we overly institutionalize and start talking about block transfers of payments and so on. We are really dealing with real live individuals and very well organized and enthusiastic organizations at the moment, who are dealing with us and bringing their proposals to us,

and I'd like to have that type of relationship maintained.

It's already in Hansard—so I won't repeat it and take up time—there are certain principles which govern us in this programme, six in number, and within the framework of those six principles we are attempting in a very real way to satisfy ourselves that the criteria are not vague, but will encourage people to share in these proceeds. The whole attitude of the ministry is that we're really trying to find ways to get the money out and not to keep it here.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Chairman, at the outset of the debate on the estimates of this ministry I made the comment that it was my feeling, and I think shared by many members on all sides of the House, that Wintario funds should not be used in a frivolous way. I mentioned that the government's closure of hospitals had caused many of us to reconsider the situation with regard to Wintario funds and that we should get our priorities right and our house in order.

Mr. Minister, I'm absolutely sure that you knew perfectly well what I meant by those remarks. I think you chose to pretend that it was my intention to cast aspersions on the activities of many worthwhile groups and organizations in the province which made application for Wintario funds and I had implied their activities were frivolous, and that if I felt this way I should not support applications from my constituents.

Mr. Chairman, I feel I must protest the minister's remarks. I am fully aware of the importance of cultural and recreational activities in the province. In fact I'm something of an enthusiast in this connection. I've sponsored many sports activities and I've participated in many. If I were not fully convinced of the importance of these areas of endeavour I would have declined to accept the position of critic of this particular ministry. At the same time I believe, as do many people, that we must be very careful about our priorities in these days of financial restraint.

It had been originally estimated that Wintario funds would amount to approximately \$20 million, and already the amount transferred to the Ministry of Culture and Recreation to be disbursed as grants is some \$50 million. To suggest that some of these funds might well be diverted to keeping community hospitals in operation cannot surely be interpreted as an attempt to downgrade the importance of either culture or recreation.

Mr. Minister, I think those comments are valid in view of what was said, and if you

choose to make any comment at this time I would then ask some questions in regard to Wintario.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I certainly have always felt that in exchanges in this House no one was personal and I wasn't attempting in any way to be personal. Any response that I would have made to the introductory remarks of my friend from Niagara Falls would simply be on the basis of what I heard said. There is absolutely no reason why anyone would not do so, if they felt so disposed, who might want to criticize the programme, may well want to question priorities, may well want to question where this money goes.

I heard the hon. member say that he felt, in this particular time of restraint, that we should not be spending the money on frivolous activities. That can only mean—and I felt that only meant—that he would have some evidence that we were spending the money frivolously. I thought it might be of some interest to him to know that in the riding of Niagara Falls we had, in fact, done very well by the Niagara Falls YMCA, the Niagara Falls Public Library—three grants to the Niagara Falls Public Library—the Niagara Falls Peewee Hockey Tour Association, the Niagara Falls Oldtimers' Hockey Club, the Niagara Falls Music Theatre Society, the Niagara Falls Minor Hockey Association, the Niagara Falls Girls' School Hockey Association, the Niagara District Art Association, the Niagara Falls Family Y, the Niagara Falls Art Gallery and Museum, and so on. None of which, as far as I'm concerned, are frivolous activities at all.

Mr. Makarchuk: They did extremely well.

Mr. Bain: We didn't do that well.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I'm pointing out to the hon. member that if those applications were looked up, no doubt he would want to be identified with this ministry's support of what I think are very important activities in the city of Niagara Falls, which neighbours my riding. I don't consider those activities frivolous at all. All the money that has gone into the city of Niagara Falls in Wintario grants would not otherwise have been available to those organizations, all of which I think make a tremendous contribution to the lifestyle of the people who live in Niagara Falls.

If memory serves me correctly, the programme of the Ministry of Health didn't touch the city of Niagara Falls at all. I can't recall a hospital bed being closed in Niagara

Falls as a result of that particular programme. The Ministry of Culture and Recreation's total budget represents one per cent of the provincial budget. The Ministry of Health represents perhaps 40 per cent of the provincial budget. If one were to take all of the Wintario money and turn it over to the Ministry of Health, I suppose it might operate it for four or five days.

I also heard the member for Niagara Falls, in his introductory remarks, quoting from a speech delivered in Belleville. I assumed that he identified himself with the fact that the money should go into the consolidated revenue fund in order to go out from the consolidated revenue fund against the established spending priorities of the government. I do not agree with that at all.

There are other points of view.

Mr. Ruston: Some in your own party.

Hon. Mr. Welch: That's one of the great things that belong to a great party like this.

I stand here saying we should be delighted that in this day and age of financial restraints, when we're trying to keep the expenditures of tax revenues under some semblance of control, that we would use these moneys, contributed in a voluntary way through the lottery, to make some contribution to a section of our community life, that surely can't be accused of having excessive amounts of public money directed to it. We're talking about one per cent of the provincial budget. We should be delighted that we have \$20 million, \$30 million or \$40 million available for these activities in the field of sports, fitness, culture and recreation, which otherwise might not be available and which otherwise might not be able to be developed. There's \$40 million to go out according to some very well understood principles to which reference has already been made.

I tell you, I am for the lottery proceeds being dedicated for these purposes. I don't consider we've spent a five-cent piece frivolously. As far as I'm concerned the people who have benefited have made great contributions. I could go through all the ridings represented in this House and name the organizations in all of our ridings that have been able to do a lot of things in connection with their particular programmes because of these things. That's what I was talking to; nothing personal at all.

Mr. Kerrio: Thank you for your comments, Mr. Minister; of course, you realize some reply is necessary to what you are suggesting. The list that you drew up in favour of the

constituency that I represent, I concur, of course, named very worthwhile things; I made that comment in my remarks. I was strictly replying that, because I disagreed with some of the policies of Wintario, your suggestion was that I should not support that very list that you just mentioned, and I certainly do.

What I was trying to draw to your attention in the way of frivolous activity was that, considering the closing of hospitals, you know very well that some of the oldtimers' hockey teams which were sent overseas would very well have gone without your help, and the wine-stomping contest would have gone on without your help. There were many areas, and when I compare them, you're attempting to make me look bad; I refuse to be put in that position.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Your comments are personal.

Mr. Kerrio: Your comments are all taken out of context because when I draw the conclusion that we could be—

Mr. Ruston: I know.

Mr. Kerrio: —I am comparing the closing of hospitals to some of these activities. In that context it takes on a somewhat more frivolous appearance except when you turn them and use them for your method of telling me what has been done in Niagara Falls.

Let me bring something else into focus: You mentioned that the \$40 million we have here wouldn't keep the hospitals in this province going for any length of time at all. You are right but you have forgotten one very important thing—the restraints the hospital people are talking about are going to save \$40 million. I am not concerned about what it costs to run that whole ministry. They said they might save \$40 million to \$50 million; you have that much in your ministry. That's what I am talking about.

I am not talking about this \$40 million keeping the hospitals going for any length of time. I am talking about using this in a way which would stop the closing of hospitals and in that way I meant that some of the activities under Wintario are frivolous.

I might say to you that it seems very strange to me—

Hon. Mr. Welch: Name one grant; name one frivolous grant.

Mr. Ruston: I have the list.

Mr. Kerrio: I just reiterated one.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Where did it go?

Mr. Ferrier: Niagara Falls oldtimers.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Niagara Falls oldtimers.

Mr. Kerrio: Yes, I think that is kind of frivolous. I think the oldtimers would have gone to Sweden without your grant.

Mr. Ferrier: Maybe it will help them and help the hospitals, too. Keep them active.

Mr. Kerrio: If you want to use the NDP approach and take my list and use it against me, go ahead.

Anyway, the other point I wanted to make has to do with the priorities in Wintario funding. I suggest to you that there are many arenas across this province which have been up for 20 or 30 years and which could very well be closed down because they badly need repairs to the rooves. We are going to have people suffering in many small communities while you are building \$3 million or \$4 million edifices in other communities. That's how well the priorities are working within that ministry.

I don't have any other comments to make. We agreed on apportioning of our time and there are other members I would defer to in my caucus.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Perhaps we might—there were four minutes left for the NDP; perhaps the hon. member for Beaches-Woodbine, if she wishes to, can use it now; then we can devote the rest of the time to the Liberal members, if that's agreeable.

Mrs. Campbell: Four minutes from now.

Mr. Nixon: The clock is running.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate that we have such a short time to deal with a new project such as Wintario, a project which I think is here to stay since 82 per cent of Ontario households are now buying Wintario tickets. I think it is very important that Ontario citizens should know how the proceeds from that activity are being spent and that's why I have attempted to find out how the money was disbursed in the first year by making an analysis of the press releases issued by the ministry covering 965 grants and approximately \$25 million. After that analysis I have come to the conclusion that there is a need for a drastic overhaul of the whole Wintario grant operation to bring it more under legislative control and to see that the money is used for meeting a broader range of urgent provincial needs in this time of restraint in particular.

I also think the administrative costs for processing grants should be looked at much more carefully and we should have information on what it is costing per grant to administer.

The disbursement of the substantial and growing Wintario proceeds which could amount to \$70 million to \$80 million this year—even though the government has conservatively estimated it at \$60 million—is something we should be concerned about in this Legislature. Seldom have such large sums of money been left to the discretionary spending of a single ministry without much clearer guidelines being spelled out in the legislation or in regulations which the Legislature has an opportunity to examine.

We do not know how the grant total is divided between current and capital; or between culture and recreation. Are there any targets? We do not know how many applications have been turned down. We do not know the cost of processing each application. We do not know how much of the staff time of the ministry is being devoted to handling Wintario applications. We do not know to what extent the ministry's budget is being kept down by substituting Wintario grants for grants formerly made by the ministry.

These are some of the questions that we must have answers to and this is why it must be more accountable to the Legislature.

My study revealed certain other facts. For instance, moneywise, sports and recreation got 37 per cent of the total; cultural activities, 51 per cent; and joint community centres, covering both recreation and culture, 12 per cent. But of the total grants, sports got 61 per cent and cultural activities 37 per cent. Capital grants accounted for over 90 per cent. Multi-cultural grants of a non-capital nature were negligible—only seven were given in the last fiscal year.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I would draw to the hon. member's attention that there's less than a minute of time.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, if I could just have maybe a minute or two extra. I have come to certain conclusions as a result of this analysis. The conclusions are that there is widespread demand for a change in the uses to which the Wintario profits are put. Proposals should be considered perhaps for putting a ceiling on the amount given in the present kinds of grants and putting the balance of the profits to larger projects—perhaps to grants to municipalities and things of that sort. We must have more publication—more disclosure—of grant guidelines. We must have better legislative control of the grants. We

must have information on grants rejected, and I think there should be some right of appeal to some non-ministry body for applicants refused grants.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order please. I hate to interrupt again but I have no other direction from the committee. The four minutes have been utilized as was agreed amongst the three caucuses.

Ms. Bryden: Could I have one minute more? I have about three more recommendations.

Mrs. Campbell: No.

Mr. Shore: Take it from one of your colleagues.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I think that the time was evenly divided.

Mrs. Campbell: The NDP have had 46 per cent of the time today.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: This should have been worked out amongst the individual caucuses. I have no direction. It would be up to the other members if they wish to give up a minute or two of their time.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Let her finish. One more minute.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: All right. One more minute.

Ms. Bryden: I just want to refer to the proportion of cost contributed by Wintario—how difficult it is for community groups to raise the two-thirds of 50 per cent; their reluctance to cover operating costs; and the one-shot nature of Wintario grants, which result in great inefficiency in starting up and stopping.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Does the hon. minister wish to reply?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to take any time at all except that I want to acknowledge that the hon. member has raised some questions. I think she's entitled to answers and I'd be glad to see that she gets them.

But, No. 2, I don't want my silence in providing some more time to be deemed as an agreement with some of the charges that have been made there. I do take some exception with some of the things that were said and the analysis and it may be that at another time we can perhaps straighten the record up with respect to some of those facts.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I have a few comments to make. Like the minister I wouldn't like to be

personal, and I wouldn't like him to read the list that I've already read here of the grants that have gone into my district. They haven't been too bad, so I won't comment on that.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I have got a pretty good index here.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Oh, I'm sure you have. And you're prepared to read it off to anybody who disagrees with you.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I've done that!

Mr. R. S. Smith: You've done that, so anyway, I'd just like—

Hon. Mr. Welch: I am sure there isn't a grant there that is frivolous.

Mr. Kerrio: You learned that today in question period.

Mr. R. S. Smith: No, not frivolous, I wouldn't use that word, no. I wouldn't use the word "frivolous." But I would like to go back a bit on the question of the appointment of the distributors. As the minister is aware there was some difficulty in my area that went on for some months and finally the man supposedly resigned. On the day of his resignation he ended up in my office and said to me that he was fired.

Mr. Laughren: Yours too?

Mr. R. S. Smith: He went on to point out why and I said that's fine. Then he asked me out for dinner and I said I wouldn't go to Harvey's with him, but—

Hon. Mr. Welch: What have you got against Harvey's?

[4:45]

Mr. R. S. Smith: Nothing. It was the person, I don't have a thing against Harvey's, but I certainly wouldn't like to do that to Harvey's, let's put it that way.

Anyway the man didn't resign, he was fired—there is no question about that in my mind—and rightfully so, I feel. I agree with that.

In the interim the Wintario commission sent up to my area two of the members of that commission to go on open-line radio shows and say how great a distributor he was. On one of those radio shows they kind of took a few cracks at the member for Nipissing for some of the statements he made. That was on the Sudbury open-line radio show.

Mr. Edighoffer: Surely not.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I take exception to that type of thing. Of course, when they came to

North Bay they got on a radio show but they didn't say the same things because they thought I might hear them. I take exception to commissioners of Wintario making remarks on open-line radio shows in regard to what statements members of this Legislature might or might not make. I think the minister should speak to the commission in that regard so that we can all be above board and know where we stand, particularly when it was proved that I was absolutely correct right through the whole matter and they were wrong—that is, the members of the Wintario lottery commission.

I would like the minister to ask them to write an apology to me. Further to that I have some other comments because that was some months ago. It's all over and the poor fellow is gone and is worried about hospitals now—he has also got into some trouble and whatnot there—but it did bother me that the commission sent those people up into my area to change things around rather than face the facts as they were.

I would like to ask the minister some specific questions in regard to the criteria set up as you went along. You have had one full year of operation in granting these moneys yet neither we, the members, nor the public fully realize what the criteria are. I wonder if the minister, as criteria are developed, could provide the members and the public the basis on which decisions are specifically made in regard to applications?

General criteria have been developed, I fully realize that, but I don't know what they are and nobody else does. I think they should be made public. The first pamphlet which came out almost begged people to come and get money—"It is here; it is free; it is everything else;" I have paraphrased it—but it indicated there was lots of money here for all these different programmes and all you have to do is come and get it. Then, when they did apply, they didn't fit the criteria although if what was in the brochure was the criteria, most of those applications certainly would have been accepted; but different criteria were set along the way.

I would ask the minister if he is now prepared to make available to us and the public the criteria in the different categories set up in recreation, sports and culture?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The answer, of course, is certainly yes. The "How To Share" booklet, although it is not overly specific, did set out some general guidelines. I have shared with the hon. members—I would be prepared now except I don't want to take your time; it is

now in Hansard—what the six principles are with respect to the Wintario programme.

As I mentioned in response to an earlier question, we are reviewing our criteria and it is our plan to put out separate publications for each division so that it can be more expansive.

Mr. R. S. Smith: That's what I am asking.

Hon. Mr. Welch: They would be more expansive and they are in the process of being developed.

I think it is important to know, and I appreciate the fact the hon. member has mentioned it, that an applicant who gets a "yes" answer will know, on the basis of the affirmative answer, that his or her application has met the criteria. I must take some responsibility for the holdup but we knew there would be some unsuccessful applicants and they were entitled to know why they were turned down. We spent a great deal of time developing those letters on an application by application basis. You would find, although it is not all in one place, that anyone in your area who has written in for a Wintario grant and been turned down, should have an explanation in the letter as to why the application wasn't successful.

I know that is only a partial answer but certainly those letters are worded that way so that if there is to be an appeal, they'll know exactly the basis upon which they then should resubmit or reapply if, in fact, they felt they wanted to.

However, to go back to the other point, we are going to expand. We're developing it on a division by division basis. Indeed, let me say this quite sincerely, if any member of this House has any suggestions at all with respect to how the programme itself might be improved in keeping with the dedicated principle of section 9 of the Lottery Corporation Act, which sets out that these funds are available for sports and fitness and recreation and culture, I would be very delighted to hear them.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I would just like to comment on that. Perhaps people do get an explanation in the letter why they are being turned down, but they wouldn't have bothered to spend all their time making out the application in the first place if they knew the criteria. And they don't know on what to appeal or to apply again if they don't know what the criteria are, so we really do have to have some kind of definitive criteria that are set down for each area, as you outlined. We do have to have that made public to the people who

are interested, so they can see on what basis they have to make their application—and not find out after they've been turned down.

I'll make one more comment, and then I'll be finished. I would like to see one area added to that section 9, because I feel it is too restrictive in that it does not look after many volunteer organizations in the social development field and provides no assistance in that area at all. I realize that section 9 is purposely set out not to assist that type of organization, and that's left to other ministries. But I would like to see section 9 enlarged so that the volunteer organizations could receive seed funds across this province in the area of social development. Because it is not being done by the Ministry of Community and Social Services to any great extent, and it's not being done, as it should be, through the Ministry of Health, either. I do believe that those services to the public are as important in this community of Ontario as recreation, as sports, as all the things that are covered under section 9. So I would ask the minister to consider enlarging section 9 to consider those organizations, and I would like his comment on that.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, we're really not prepared to introduce any amendment to section 9, other than the general words that are there. And in doing that, this doesn't preclude the access to that resource by volunteer organizations, but the activities of the volunteer organizations have to be related to these particular fields.

Now, I would disagree that that imposes a narrow interpretation. Culture, recreation, sports and fitness—that's a pretty wide area. I also remind you that there are two very important criteria with respect to these principles—that is the non-substitution of taxes and the non-dependency principle. But we're very worried; we don't want to start getting things going with respect to seed money, and then turn them loose elsewhere to find their ongoing expenses. That was one of the great criticisms of other programmes. They got things going, and then didn't provide for their ongoing operation.

But I would remind the hon. member that I find section 9, as is presently in the statute, a fairly wide area. There are a tremendous number of volunteer organizations, of course, for those particular objects who are benefiting from it. I know what the hon. member means, but once you're out of this general field, then I would be at a loss to know where you might draw the line. So, I think it is not a case of volunteerism not being supported, it's a case of where the volunteer activity is

being directed. Because most of the recipients are, in fact, made up of hundred of volunteers who are helping to provide some of these programmes and who are getting this support.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Does the minister then look at the ongoing deficits that will incur from some of the capital construction projects that are being financed by Wintario?

Hon. Mr. Welch: It is quite clearly indicated to these people that they cannot look to Wintario for any ongoing expenses from the capital programme.

Mr. R. S. Smith: You could do the same with the other.

Mrs. Campbell: I would like, first of all, to ask the minister if he is prepared to table in this House the audit which has been done, I'm informed, of the Wintario operation.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I am advised that the audit has not been completed, unless the hon. member has information that I don't have. I am advised that the audit has not been finished.

Mrs. Campbell: Then could I ask when it is contemplated that that audit will finish?

Hon. Mr. Welch: There would be a brief audit at the end of the last fiscal year covering a short period of time I suppose, but I don't have such an audit at the moment. I am advised that the Provincial Auditor is presently at the corporation doing his audit, so whenever that is available it will become public information in due course.

Mrs. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like in the time left to me to make some comments. I am sure the minister is perfectly aware of what I am going to say, because I have had discussions with him on the whole area of Wintario funds as they are made available to the multicultural community, particularly in this area.

Surely there must be an end to this uncertainty in the guidelines in that area. The minister is perfectly well aware—since, I understand, his staff is—that the first guidelines were in fact prepared by Foster Advertising and that there are now new guidelines in the process of being prepared. The difficulty is, of course, that while we are waiting the variations in the grants perusals are really creating great problems.

I may say, for example, that I don't understand, if a community asks for a project grant, where in the world in the guidelines it says they have to produce a five-year lease, for

instance, for a one-shot deal. I can't understand where you get to that. If it were to be a capital grant application I can understand that there should be some security. But if the people have been in the same place for years why they should now suddenly be asked to produce an additional evidence of a lease to get a project grant is beyond me and I find it nowhere in the guidelines.

I also don't understand why in one community a grant is made and approved, where that community operates almost in identical fashion with another community, and because the second multicultural community doesn't advertise publicly that it is open to anybody in the area, its grant should be refused, while in the first case the grant was made without such advertising being either required or indeed even investigated. What you have done by having these people in Wintario is to create further dichotomies between the multicultural communities in Metropolitan Toronto.

Surely if you have a multicultural group in your ministry they must have set up some kind of expertise and perhaps it would be useful to use their experience in this very delicate area. When you compare the various grants that are made and the various grants that are turned down, there is absolutely no way that you can come up with what the criteria are, because one gets it, the other doesn't and there is no real reason except two different people are perusing the applications.

If the minister is dedicated to the multicultural programme may I suggest that we sit down and get guidelines that apply equally to every single multicultural community and not those which can be interpreted differently depending on the viewer. I'm sorry. I can't go on, Mr. Chairman. I realize my time is up, but I would have hoped that we could have had some reply to that from the minister.

[5:00]

Hon. Mr. Welch: Very quickly, Mr. Chairman, I will give the hon. member the undertaking that we will sit down and talk. I understood that on about May 27 there was such a meeting at which the hon. member had some opportunity to meet with some of our staff and share some of these concerns.

Mrs. Campbell: That's right and nothing happened.

Hon. Mr. Welch: That was on May 27. I want to make sure that there is no misunderstanding—Foster Advertising agency is not preparing and has not prepared any book on the multi-cultural criteria. We have had extensive meetings in the ministry in this area

and it has been a complicated one because of this whole question of wanting to be helpful and sharing. I know the hon. member has a personal dedication in this field and I want to assure her I share it. I would be glad to sit down and talk to her about it and clear up any misunderstandings.

Vote 2807 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes the estimates of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Mr. Chairman: Does the hon. minister have an opening comment?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by saying that if ever in the history of Ontario there was a critical need for a better sense of perspective on the school system of the province, a need to stand back and at a distance objectively analyse the realities of the present day, it is now.

There could be no more opportune time for at least a cursory review than this moment as we are here today to examine the proposed expenditures of \$1,970,456,000 by the Ministry of Education for the fiscal year 1976-1977.

Almost everywhere across North America education has come under the shadow of negativism over the past four or five years. Every week we seem to hear criticisms from those who claim there are falling standards, shortcomings in teaching the basics, a lack of discipline, not enough compulsory subjects, a lack of tough examinations, too many teacher strikes, inadequate financing, higher education taxes and on and on it goes. In general, less quality for more money, or so the critics say.

It is a small comfort for most of us to open a daily newspaper from virtually any North American city, I would say, and realize that the criticisms we are hearing here in Ontario are practically universal. At least, we can realize that Ontario is not an island and that educators and legislators almost everywhere are pondering the same questions we are.

How much validity is there to the criticism? How can we objectively measure the quality of education better than it is being done at present? How, precisely, do we overcome any shortcomings which do not exist without destroying what is essentially a fine education system?

In short, where do we go from here?

In education today, we face a paradoxical situation and I say we need a sense of perspective to recognize it. The paradox is simply this—many of the features of our school system; which are being most heavily criticized today are the very things which were achieved in the 1960s when everywhere there was a great push, supported by educators and the public alike, to break away from the rigidities and authoritarianism of the 1950s and earlier.

I believe that in some respects the pendulum of change in education perhaps did swing too far during the 1960s because of the momentum behind it. Today, in 1976, the onus is upon us to keep a rein on the pendulum, letting it return perhaps a little closer to a more balanced position but preventing it from sweeping back too far.

It is incumbent upon legislators, educators and the public not to rush forward into wholesale changes that may in the process destroy the best of what has been achieved over these past 15 years. In almost every respect there has been progress and improvement in education since 1960.

The responsible—and perhaps, Mr. Chairman, the most difficult—course for us today is to assess with special care the criticisms and recommendations we are hearing, to pinpoint those with real merit and substance and at the same time resist the temptation to accede to others just for the sake of silencing the criticism.

We must make changes. We must make them soon. Personally I don't believe that the needed refinements are nearly so substantive as some of the extremist critics would have us believe. The cool hand of reason must prevail, even under the sometimes intense heat of criticism. We must make those refinements that are educationally sound and no others.

What are some of the key areas that deserve our particular attention at this time, Mr. Chairman?

One, most certainly, is money. And this is very definitely one critical area where a better sense of perspective and reality is needed by many people within education itself.

We still hear the occasional claim that more money would somehow automatically lead to improvements in education. I think, Mr. Chairman, we have to realize that this is not so, this is not so. We have to realize that the answer to even better quality in

education does not lie in ever-increasing amounts of money.

We have before us today expenditure proposals of over \$1.9 billion for the Ministry of Education in 1976-1977. Following the pattern of earlier years, the vast majority of these funds merely pass through our hands on their way to other bodies and other agencies. In fact 96.6 per cent of the money represented by these estimates today, is for transfer payments to school boards, the Teachers' Superannuation Commission and fund, and to agencies like the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, the Ontario Educational Communications Authority and several others.

The remaining expenditures, under five per cent of our total budget, are composed of three types of costs: The first is for the operations of institutions, representing 1.4 per cent of the total ministry estimates. These include the provincial schools for the blind and deaf; developmental centre schools; our correspondence course programme; and the Ontario Teacher Education College. Second, the regional offices of the ministry, which represent 0.6 per cent of the estimates of this ministry. And third, the—if I could term them so—head office costs, of which the regional offices are part but I have separated them for clarity today. The head office costs—that is the cost of the operation here in the Mowat Block at Queen's Park—represents 1.4 per cent of the total estimates of this ministry. These last three items together have decreased slightly during the 1975-1976 fiscal year as a percentage of the total ministry budget, falling now to 3.4 per cent from four per cent last year.

It's well known that the government is constantly under pressure from various quarters, of course, to pump even more money into education. For reasons that have been expounded many times previously and which are well known to everyone in the Legislature, the proposed increases in transfer payments for next year is the limit which can be afforded within the provincial Treasury.

I spoke earlier of perspective; many members are aware of a study of Canadian education conducted recently by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development—OECD in short—which is an international body based in Paris, France. From a draft report arising from this study come some findings that must surely cast a new light on the credibility of those who would have us believe that education in Ontario

is under-financed. To quote from that report, there are these words: "In international perspective, Canada's allocations of resources to education have developed from a clearly generous level to an extraordinarily generous one."

The report gives figures which indicate that Canada's spending in education, expressed in terms of percentages of gross national product, is significantly higher than other major countries of the world. The figures quoted in the report indicate that Canada spends 8.3 per cent of the GNP on education. The closest comparative figures are 7.3 per cent for the USSR; 6.3 per cent for the United States; and 5.6 per cent for the United Kingdom. Canada's 8.3 per cent stands at about twice the level of France, which is at 4.5 per cent, Japan at 4 per cent and West Germany at 3.6 per cent.

It is my perception that people are now coming to grips with the reality of education finance in Ontario. It's not been easy. While perhaps there will never be enough money available from the public purse to do everything that everyone would like to do in education, or, for that matter, in any other field, I believe that those responsible for setting education budgets at all levels today realize that there are limits. Certainly, the public realizes the limits. Although it is extremely difficult, in many cases, to sort out priorities and make those ultimate decisions on how the available money is to be spent, it is being done with a truly commendable degree of persistence, patience, understanding and success.

I believe that we're finally arriving at an improved sense of perspective related to the monetary aspects of our school system.

The second major area that requires careful attention at this time—and I guess it is ultimately more important than the monetary aspects—is the curriculum in our schools. Being at the very heart of the education system, it is not to be tampered with lightly or without great care and serious thought. Yet because of its very nature it must be modified and refined constantly to ensure that it continues to serve the best interests of pupils and society as a whole.

The paradoxical situation which I described earlier, in which some of the very advances of the 1960s have become the targets of the harshest criticisms of today, certainly presents legislators and educators with a reality that contains a most difficult challenge.

First, let me say that some of the criticisms we have been hearing do have some measure of foundation and we must and will act to make improvements where they are needed. But at the same time I would repeat what I said earlier—that we must not rush headlong into wholesale changes for the sake of expediency because if we do so we run a risk of destroying much of the good that so many people have worked so hard to achieve in recent years in order to make our school system more relevant and more responsive to most of the young people in this province that it must serve.

At the elementary school level, the introduction of "The Formative Years," which is the ministry's official curriculum policy for the primary and junior grades, has exemplified, I believe, the responsible approach to curriculum refinement. In an atmosphere in which many citizens and even some teachers were expressing uneasiness about coverage of the so-called basic subjects there might have been a temptation to retreat to the rigid approaches of a bygone time.

We have not done this. Instead, we have prepared for the schools and school boards in "The Formative Years" a clear outline of curriculum expectations, a blueprint of objectives which leaves no room for doubt as to where the emphasis should be in the elementary school system of this province.

We gave no thought to the idea of returning to a standardized lockstep curriculum even in the basics because such an approach does not make adequate allowance for the individual differences among children and we must make adequate allowance for these differences. We continue to be convinced that individual school boards, schools and teachers need some degree of flexibility in order to best serve all their pupils and while "The Formative Years" is significantly more clear-cut and succinct than its predecessor, the local curriculum flexibility remains.

The co-operative approach to assessing and refining the elementary school curriculum which has followed and, in fact, preceded the introduction of "The Formative Years," I think, exemplifies a responsible approach to change in curriculum.

[5:15]

All across this province, hundreds of meetings and workshops have been held over the last year, with local educators and ministry officials working together to assess present curriculum in the schools against the objectives stated in "The Formative Years." Every

school board has a plan of action worked out to identify curriculum areas that need change or upgrading and to make appropriate refinements where they're necessary.

It should be noted that the comparisons that were made between the present curriculum policies of many local school boards and those stated in "The Formative Years," where the basics definitely were emphasized, did not reveal too many disparities. Improvements and new emphasis, yes. Some new content, yes. But really they showed that basics were in the school system.

"The Formative Years" stresses again the basics, and so do the programmes that are being offered across this province today. "The Formative Years" paints a picture of curriculum, however, that goes well beyond the basics—the reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar and spelling—which are so necessary. It paints a picture that goes beyond this and presents programmes offered to satisfy other basic objectives, which, of course, must also be the objectives of the elementary school.

While on the topic of curriculum, let me briefly make one or two points about the secondary schools in Ontario and the credit system. To start with, let's look at the core curriculum in our high schools. We have all heard some pretty emotional rhetoric on this subject; much of it, I must say, bears little relation to what is actually happening in our schools.

There are those who seem determined to perpetuate the myth that there is no core curriculum in our high schools. I can only suggest that they take an honest look at the present practice in virtually all the secondary schools across this province. All of the rhetoric aside, the hard statistics show that, in fact, a basic core curriculum does exist. English and Canadian studies are mandatory for every student. In grades 9 and 10, 100 per cent of the students are taking science, 83 per cent are taking physical education and more than 80 per cent are taking mathematics. In the upper grades, English, maths and science are taken by just about every student.

We have a computerized document of every course being taken by every student in this province, and this document documents what I have said. It's very interesting reading for anyone who believes that the majority of students in this province are taking Mickey Mouse courses or courses like basket-weaving. In fact, I can't even find

basket-weaving listed as a course of study in any school in this province.

Mr. Nixon: Can you find Canadian family studies?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Is my friend saying that Canadian family studies is not a course of merit and worth discussion?

Mr. Nixon: Of course it has merit, but it certainly doesn't compare with the ones you have listed. You haven't even listed French. Don't you think that French should be a part of the curriculum? Where do you think French should stand?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I'm glad to have my friend say that Canadian family studies doesn't qualify as a very important course. He links that with basket-weaving and so forth.

Mr. Nixon: No. You link it with basket-weaving.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk will have an opportunity to get into the debate later.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the hon. minister will permit a question?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Certainly.

Mr. Bain: No, no. We prefer to hear the minister.

Hon. Mr. Wells: My friend is going to ask about French, and of course, we'll have a discussion about French later on. He knows that I don't believe that French should be a mandatory subject.

Mr. Nixon: Where do you place it? Is that important or not? Do you place that with Canadian family studies?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Canadian family studies is a very hard and relevant course for some students in this province.

Mr. Nixon: Of course. And you say it has the same importance as French.

Mr. Chairman: Will the hon. minister just ignore the interjections? We'll have ample opportunity later to get into these votes in detail.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, most of the impassioned pleas for a more rigid and authoritarian mandatory core curriculum are

implying, if not stating very specifically, that the Ministry of Education ought to lay down a specific list of courses that are compulsory for every student and return to the very rigidity that was so soundly and understandably criticized; in the 1960s as being quite insensitive to the individual needs of individual students and the realities of a changing world.

Our policy on core curriculum is quite clear, quite simple and quite realistic, and it is geared to what we believe to be the best interests of the students of this province.

We believe in the core curriculum. We believe that knowledge in certain subjects is fundamental to the education of secondary school students. But we also believe that the high school curriculum should not be prescribed totally from above, from the Ministry of Education. Just as with "The Formative Years" for the elementary schools of the province, we believe there should be flexibility for local school boards and schools so they can respond more individually to the real needs of the students in their jurisdictions.

In curriculum, Mr. Chairman, we are practising local autonomy, the kind of local autonomy that my friend is always talking about and that the Liberal Party is always talking about, local autonomy that allows local people to make decisions.

Mr. Nixon: You just gave up your ceilings about five months ago. You are seeing a bit of light, once you have removed the ceilings.

Hon. Mr. Wells: And we are expecting local responsibility. We establish broad policies and guidelines within which local school boards and educators can bring their own good judgement to bear on specific courses of study. Sometimes I think it would be much easier if we simply reverted to a more centralized and authoritarian system, taking away the flexibility and directing more of everything right here from Queen's Park—just as in the "good old days" which we hear so much about. But I think that this would be a cop-out and it would be to the detriment of most of the students of this province.

And we are not going to do this, Mr. Chairman. I stand firmly by our present policy, because I think it is correct and it is responsible. We encourage school boards and schools to recommend to their students a solid core curriculum, plus a good variety of meaningful and challenging options. We put the onus, believing in local autonomy, on locally-elected school trustees and on their employees, the principals of their secondary schools, along with their teachers and ad-

ministrators, to recommend the specifics of the core programme for their pupils, because this is where the responsibility belongs.

It is only in this way that we can achieve a measure of flexibility at the local level, and that is what is happening. It is the way I would think, Mr. Chairman, from my contacts with educators in the field, the way most of the principals of the secondary schools of this province believe it should be handled.

In saying this, we do not give school boards or principals the ultimate authoritarian power either. It continues to be our policy that a student and his parents, having examined and discussed the recommended package of subjects put forward by the school, can substitute one subject for another in the package if they really wish to do so.

Now, it is this proviso—which to me makes eminent good sense—that I think gives rise to such incredulous statements as I read in the recent report, for instance, of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, titled "At What Cost?", where it said: "We now have an education system distinguished by the complete freedom of choice offered to students."

Such statements are patently ridiculous and inaccurate. If there are schools where such a situation exists, and I do not know of any—and I emphasize that—I do not know of any where complete freedom of choice exists—then I can only suggest that the local trustees, not to mention the principals and teachers themselves, have a closer look at the way they are managing their schools.

But the hard statistical facts, when measured against the rather vague "perceptions" of some people, convince us that in fact we do have a responsible core curriculum for the high school students of Ontario, built upon the premise of local autonomy that leaves key decision-making powers to local people, within the broad parameters specified by the higher authority, the Ministry of Education.

Mr. Nixon: Sounds pretty nearly perfect.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Perhaps there is no more important area of our school system where a sense of perspective and objective analysis of the facts are needed today, to prevent expedient steps being taken to accommodate the criticisms at the expense of students, both present and future.

Mr. Chairman, within the ministry, and within the education community generally, there are at present a number of very im-

portant activities and studies under way which, although not yet finalized, will doubtless have a significant influence on developments in Ontario education over the next few years. Not surprisingly, many of these activities bear directly or indirectly on curriculum matters, as part of our firm resolve to obtain objective, factual information in this area before any decisions are made about possible changes for the future.

An example is the work that has been going on to systematically review the curriculum of the intermediate division, grades 7 to 10. Core curriculum has been one of the fundamental issues in this review. Analysis of the opinions put forward by parents, students, educators, trustees and other interested citizens has led to the development of a series of core "expectations" for each of the four grades. A draft document is now being evaluated; it is called "The Intermediate Years," and is similar in format and intent to "The Formative Years" for the elementary school grades.

Another example of the kind of curriculum analysis that is under way is the large-scale research project jointly commissioned by the Ministries of Education and Colleges and Universities. We are reviewing all of the educational policies of the two ministries that concern the preparation of students for post-secondary education, as well as their admission and reception into college and university programmes.

This major study, which actually comprises three separate research projects expected to be completed late this year, arose out of our concern that there was a notable lack of hard data on these matters and in these fields. We have all been hearing criticisms but these usually amount to vague opinions as to how well students are prepared and how well they are incorporated into colleges and universities.

So we are looking at everything that affects the movement of students between secondary schools and our colleges and universities. The whole thrust of this research is to conduct a hard-nosed, objective evaluation by people who know the system but who are essentially outsiders.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, we will be giving close scrutiny to the report which has just been received and which was prepared by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, entitled "At What Cost?" Despite my earlier references to a particular sentence in that report and particular point made, I would like to say that I am very impressed by the scope and con-

tent of this report as a whole, and the various recommendations it presents will be reviewed very carefully in the ministry and with the teachers' federation.

Mr. Nixon: That's having it both ways.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Do you even know what the recommendations are? Have you read the report?

Mr. Nixon: I certainly am aware of one on the very matter with which you have been dealing at length. Calling irresponsible those people who were critical of your administration and policy.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I'll be very interested if you can quote me back what their recommendation is, very interested.

On another front, there has been a great deal of action within the ministry on the broad matters of evaluation, testing and reporting to parents. Members will recall that when we last considered this ministry's estimates in November of 1975, I indicated our concern that better methods were needed to look at the evaluation and reporting methods presently being used to inform parents of the progress of their children in school. This statement of concern has been a top priority matter for us since then and we expect to be able to put forward some specific proposals later this year, after consultation with teachers, trustees and others who are, of course, most vitally interested and concerned about these matters.

In a similar way, new developments related to the teaching of French as a second language and the very important matter of multiculturalism are coming closer to reality, thanks to many months of planning, and we will have something to say about these matters in a few months.

Mr. Nixon: Be very interested to hear you give the percentage of French at various levels.

Hon. Mr. Wells: These are just a few of the areas to which a great deal of time and effort has been allocated in the last six months. As examples, they serve to illustrate the extent to which we have turned a critical and introspective eye upon present educational policies and practices, and the extent to which we are determined to make any future changes in education based on factual, objective analysis of specific problems.

[5:30]

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to quote from an editorial in the current issue

of what I think is a very excellent newspaper published by the Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Federation. The editor of this paper, Garth McMillan, was writing about the need for teamwork and co-operation in education as a strategy for coping with the inevitable changes which lie ahead in education. I don't think I could have expressed it any better than he did in his editorial:

The beauty of it is the solution is so simple. Co-operation not conflict; unity of purpose and attack not antagonism and confusion; trust and confidence in each other not suspicion and self-interest. That's all. It's time to stop stepping on the cracks and breaking each other's backs. It's time to grow up.

Before I sit down, in introducing these estimates this year I would like to draw to the attention of the House the fact that there are three gentlemen attending as part of the staff of the ministry for the last time after very long and meritorious service with the Ministry of Education.

Frank Kinlin, whose most recent position was Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Development, retired on May 31 after 43 years in education in Ontario, 31 in the Ministry of Education. Stuart Stephen, who is the present Assistant Deputy Minister, Administrative and Financial Services, will be retiring on July 31 after 31 years of service in the civil service of the Province of Ontario, a large number of those recent years with the Ministry of Education. There is also a man who's probably been noticed by most of the members around this House—at least those who have been here for the last few years, perhaps not some of the newer members—Gordon Chatterton, who's been the director of our legislation branch. He is retiring on June 30, after 44 years of service to education, 30 of those with the Ministry of Education. Because of the really dedicated work these men have given to education in Ontario, I wanted, at the beginning of these estimates to say publicly thank you on behalf of myself, the ministry, the government and, I'm sure, the Legislature of this province for their services to education in this province.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. The applause from our caucus at the conclusion of the minister's speech wasn't for the speech in general but for the last comments about the public servants who have served the province so well.

We've got an agreement not to say anything nice about each other this year.

Education in Ontario is possibly the most difficult area to come to grips with in 1976. There is a lot of unfocused discontent with our educational system: It finds its expression in a number of ways. Usually, it is expressed as follows—teacher demands are too high; the schools are too soft; the students graduating from our high schools can't read or write properly; there is too much administrative bureaucracy in the system; our school buildings are too lavish; our teachers are not properly trained; nobody seems to know what's going on in the system. What this all boils down to is that the public does see a lot of money being spent on our educational system but does not see an adequate result for the amounts we are spending. The public has not been encouraged to be an active participant in the school system and is now turning against it with some vengeance.

My own view—and I've stated this before—is that for all its flaws our system is not a bad one. Most of the people in the system, pupils, teachers, trustees, parents and administrators, want to make it work but do not quite know how to do it. It is as if we were all entangled in some gigantic mass of cotton wool and don't know how to escape. I think this is a direct result of the fact that the system itself lacks leadership from the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the Minister of Education. It's a pretty good system but for the \$1.9 billion and more we spend on it, it should be a heck of a lot better.

Essentially, as the minister indicated in his remarks, we have to restore public confidence in the system. But it is not done simply by saying, don't criticize. Restoring that public confidence will not happen if we don't examine it critically. Unlike the Liberals, we in this party do not intend to be destructive about that. Unlike the government, we would not be complacent and try to hide or patch over some of the very real problems facing the educational system.

What is required it seems to me, is a frankness and candour with the public over our school system that this government simply won't display. It requires a searching look at what is right and what is wrong with our system. It requires being straight with the public about what is right and what is wrong. It requires telling the public what can be done and what cannot be done by the school system in isolation. It must be done without unduly raising the expectations of the public about the educational system, which is what happened in the 1960s and why some of the

criticism that the minister talks about was so strongly focused in those years.

It is imperative that we admit that all of society's ills in Ontario cannot be solved solely by the educational system. It seems to me that requires a commitment from the minister and from the top levels of government to proselytize, if you like, across this province; to take on the hardhats and the reactionaries and the yahooism that is expressed in this day and age—and not to do it merely by the occasional statement in the Legislature, but to do it right across this province. I think it means being blunt enough to tell parents that they still have some duties; that, in fact, the primary duty of raising children still belongs to the parents; and that a school system is only a surrogate parent for a particular length of time and for a particular skill and social development.

In short, I do not think that the educational system can singlehandedly battle the tide of society about literacy and TV, about yahooism or about subjects such as violence in our society. We cannot expect the educational system in isolation to solve those.

What does this boil down to? What does it come to? It means a massive job of educating the public about what the educational system is about—about what it can do and what it cannot do. It means, in some way or other, taking the bull by the horns, so to speak, and revitalizing community councils around schools, parent-teacher associations and the old home and school associations. It means involving the public in a very real way with the educational system because, after all, it is their system.

I think it also means rehabilitating the old community education branch that was within the ministry but got transferred to the Ministry of Community and Social Services and now, I think, is in the limbo of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. One of the major functions of that branch, as I recall it in the 1940s, was to go across the province telling the public what the educational system was about. I think we need to reactivate that facility and that thrust within the ministry.

I think it means, on the part of the minister and on the part of all of those interested in and concerned about the educational system in this Province, recognition that a progressive education system need not be a flabby educational system; that a progressive educational system can be demanding and stimulating in its own right. I don't think I have seen this better expressed than in a speech given in 1974 by John Ellis, the director of graduate

programmes in the faculty of education at Simon Fraser University. He said this:

I think it is essential and possible for every child, at least once in his schooling, to experience the deep joy and satisfaction that results from seeing a long, difficult and, perhaps, discouraging struggle crowned with an outstanding product.

I don't much care whether the struggle is to rebuild and soup-up an automobile engine, or to devise a new and elegant solution to a problem in physics, or to create a piece of jewellery of beauty and lustre, or to write a proposal for correcting a social injustice, or to run a slalom course with grace and courage, or to produce a piece of woven fabric of warmth and delicacy, or to build a working model of a pollution-free engine. I don't care what it is so long as the pupil has the deep-satisfaction of experiencing excellence.

You see, I believe that we have permitted the illusion of instant success to replace the reality of painstaking effort and, in so doing, we have robbed the young of a sacred experience. We have instant mashed potatoes, instant creativity, even instant personality change, but we have failed to sell our children and we have never allowed them to experience the fact that significant achievement in any area of human endeavour results from effort, energy and imagination, and often calls for the overcoming of disappointments, frustrations and discouragement. No work of art, no social reform, no skilled performance, has ever sprung full-blown into reality from a feeble effort.

I think that is what we must strive for in a progressive education system in Ontario.

Mr. Chairman, it's been an unusual experience for me in the last six or seven months since the Sept. 18 election. As I go across the province talking to various people about education in the province, they now spring a question on me that was never asked me in the previous five years, and that is: "Presumably, when the NDP takes power, you might be the Minister of Education, and what will you do?"

Interjection.

Mr. Foulds: There's nothing like that question to crystalize your thinking. I admit that freely. So I would like to put to you what the NDP government would like to do—

Mr. Villeneuve: Lord have mercy on us.

Mr. Martel: Don't be too sure, Osie.

Mr. Foulds: —in reforming and realigning the educational system in this province over the first four years of our term in office.

Mr. Martel: I can remember 78 members over there.

Mr. Foulds: Yes, there are only three members of the Tory party in here to support the minister on his educational policy, and I think that's a shame.

Mr. Wildman: Only two of them are worthwhile.

Mr. Foulds: I think the thing that would give me, and give our party the greatest sense of achievement, the greatest sense of satisfaction and the greatest sense of joy in our educational system, is to ensure, no matter what difficulties we face, that all children of compulsory school age would have full access to education. That would include all those children that we title and lump in under special education—the blind, the deaf, the physically handicapped, the mentally retarded—and that group of children that we label in that grab bag of learning disabilities.

Mr. Martel: Even in northern Ontario.

Mr. Foulds: We would have no greater satisfaction than if we could achieve that one reform, because it's essential in our society. It is especially true, as my colleague the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) pointed out, even in northern Ontario.

We would say that those children have the same right to the full development of their capabilities as do average, or bright children—and that they should have that right in Ontario. What we need is an educational Bill of Rights, if you like, for those people and for their parents, so they don't have to go through some of the anguishing cases that have happened in this province in the last couple of years. For example, having to take the Ministry of Community and Social Services to court, and getting the run-around between Community and Social Services and Education about whose responsibility it is—

Mr. Martel: The kids are in the middle.

Mr. Foulds: Simply to be able to relieve the anxiety and the financial burden for those parents and those kids would seem to me to be a major achievement that we would certainly do everything within our power to implement.

[5:45]

Secondly, I think there is no doubt that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction with teacher education in the province. The dissatisfaction is widespread among teachers themselves, school boards and administrators, and some parents. Surely it is not too much to ask that a ministry of the magnitude of the Ministry of Education could put together 12 or so of the best people concerned with teacher education in this province—from the faculties of education, the federations, the ministry itself—and within the next year come up with a concrete and completely redesigned teacher training programme.

The programme would include more emphasis on training of teachers to be able to spot and recognize learning handicaps; more emphasis on the practical aspects of teaching during the training period, possibly internship or apprenticeship programmes. I think that somehow in the teacher training programme we need to provide for a smoother transition to the classroom, possibly giving some kind of weighting factors or extra grants or something to boards of education so that when they hire beginning teachers they can hire them for a particular timetable, not a complete timetable, so that the teacher has the opportunity to work with more experienced teachers in some cases throughout the system.

In other words, we'd have the teacher working in the work situation but we'd phase him into that system over a year or two rather than have what happens now. That is, you kick him into the classroom for 40 periods a week. The beginning teacher is the one who gets overloaded and it's the experienced teacher who, by and large, gets better timetables.

Mr. Martel: Shut the door so he can't get out.

Mr. Nixon: How many of them teach 40 periods a week, did you say?

Mr. Foulds: Now—32, 35, some 40.

Mr. Nixon: How many?

Mr. Foulds: Have you ever taught in a remote northern Ontario school?

Mr. Nixon: Have you taught in the past five years?

Mr. Foulds: In Sault Ste. Marie? That was remote enough for you. The Liberal leader doesn't even want to go back to Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Martel: Bob, you liked it too well, didn't you?

Mr. Angus: They don't like him up there any more.

Mr. Foulds: Within that particular aspect—

Mr. Nixon: It's a lot nicer teaching there now than in the old days; we had to work for a living then.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: —of teacher education, we must begin a programme of retraining teachers not just in methodology but in some of their academic subjects so they could recharge their batteries and learn new techniques. These programmes need not be every seven years on the yearly sabbatical basis which is often maligned but on a seminar basis for a week or a month or a weekend. We must develop enough flexibility in the system so that the teacher can get out for that length of time, get that kind of training programme and go back into the system.

Mr. Laughren: How are those for positive suggestions?

Mr. Nixon: A windmill run by water.

Mr. Foulds: That's so original I think I'll let you have that quote.

It's no secret that the New Democratic Party has had its differences with a large number of trustees and most trustee organizations in the past—

Mr. Nixon: Even a few teachers.

Mr. Foulds: —especially over collective bargaining for teachers but then so has the minister and his ministry.

Nevertheless, two things came through loud and clear during those very valuable standing committee hearings on the Teacher-Board Negotiations Act, 1974. Two things came through loud and clear.

One was the sense of frustration that trustees have. The other was their deep and abiding concern about the state of education in this province. It is the firm conviction of my party that a necessary step in rehabilitating the school system in Ontario is revitalizing the trustees and the local boards. Within living memory, the provincial Ministry of Education has always treated trustees in a paternal and patronizing way, letting the trustees take the flak when the going gets rough in the educational work and the pro-

vincial government itself taking credit when the going gets good.

Mr. Martel: He pulls all the strings in the background.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Who told you that? That is untrue.

Mr. Martel: That is so true. They have taken the flak for you guys for years.

Interjection.

Mr. Foulds: There was a quote by one of them that they are the soldiers in the front lines who the ministry lets the enemy shoot at.

Mr. Martel: You rang a bell there. You got to them.

Mr. Wildman: Cannon fodder, that's what they are.

Mr. Martel: They took the flak for the minister.

Mr. Foulds: There are four basic ways that we in the NDP would seek to enhance the role that trustees play in education in the province.

One: We would establish a provincial trustee liaison committee parallel in structure and style to the present provincial-municipal liaison committee for municipal councils. Like the PMLC under TEIGA, the new PTLC under Education would meet monthly to discuss matters of mutual interest having to do with education and related fields. This would allow trustees to exchange firsthand, with the Minister of Education, his officials and other cabinet ministers, on an ongoing basis, a wide range of concerns from school bus safety to curriculum development.

It would give trustees the same feeling of participation that the very successful PMLC has given to municipal councils over the past few years. It would benefit the ministry enormously. Now the ministry's contacts are largely with the administrators at the board level and through their regional offices. The provincial government would find out firsthand what actually is going on in education out there at the school board level. It would elevate trustees to full partnership in the development of the educational system in Ontario. It would mean that the bitterness surrounding provincial funding of school boards could be eradicated by a frank and full disclosure of the problems facing both sides ahead of time.

Two: We in the NDP would provide through the Ministry of Education training programmes and seminars for trustees, ranging in matters from administration to curriculum development, so that trustees would no longer feel, as they presently do, totally dependent on their own administrative officials and those of the province in order to make decisions.

Hon. Mr. Wells: These are all done.

Mr. Martel: Oh, come on.

Mr. Foulds: It would also provide them with some technical expertise relating to the legislative acts and the functions that they are responsible for.

Interjection.

Mr. Foulds: With this kind of training, trustees would not need to feel any longer that they are largely mere rubber stamps for the decisions of ministry officials or of their own local administrative officials.

Hon. Mr. Wells: They meet regularly. Your research is not accurate.

Mr. Wildman: He says they meet monthly.

Mr. Foulds: They meet monthly, like the PMLC?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Not monthly, but we meet regularly with them.

Mr. Ferris: It appears right here, Jim. I'll give you the book.

Mr. Foulds: Three: we would strike either a select committee of the Legislature or a ministerial task force to consult with boards and trustees throughout the province to examine the role of the trustees and the autonomy of local school boards. Now that the new, consolidated, county and district school boards have been in existence for some eight years, this seems an appropriate time to evaluate both the benefits and deficiencies of our new school board system. This committee would report within six months, and the government would begin action on its recommendations within a year, in order to define more clearly and satisfactorily the relationship between the ministry and the local school boards.

Four: We would carefully examine the Ontario School Trustees Council Act with a view to ensuring and safeguarding the particular interests and prerogatives of the existing trustees' organizations, but also making provision for other interest groups, such as

the large urban boards, which for various complex reasons are presently outside the existing trustee organizations. We in the New Democratic Party believe that boards and local trustees have a valuable role to play in the development of education in Ontario. We believe that their role is as important in our society as is the role of municipal councils and aldermen. We believe that the above four steps would help to give them that role.

Finally—no, I don't think it is finally, I've got a few more pages here.

Mr. Nixon: The best 20-minute speech we've heard in a long time.

Mr. Foulds: It's only 25 so far.

Mr. Angus: We've got three-quarters to go.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. If it is so good, let's hear more of it.

Mr. Foulds: That is the nicest thing a chairman of this House has said to me in a long time.

Mr. Laughren: We are going to quote from the Liberal policy in a minute.

Mr. Angus: It will only take a minute!

Mr. Laughren: Just for laughs. It brings some levity to the debate.

Mr. Foulds: I would like to restate the NDP commitment to early education in this province, and achieving that implementation in a staged way through a progressive series of steps. I think that if we allow for the rate of inflation and for the increase necessary for legitimate increases in teachers' salaries, especially at the elementary level, the proportion of our provincial budget spent on education is adequate. But we must redistribute the resources we have within the system so that we spend as much time, attention and money on youngsters in pre-school classes and in grades 1, 2 and 3 as we do in youngsters in grades 11, 12 and 13.

Mr. Martel: Long overdue.

Mr. Foulds: The importance of early education cannot be over-estimated. We need to be able to get class sizes down—

Mr. Nixon: They have got their own local in the back two rows there.

Mr. Foulds: Are you supporting this or opposed to it?

We need to get class size down as low as 18 in early grades, so that teachers faced with the monumental task of teaching the traditional three Rs of reading, writing and arithmetic, can actually do it. We must do this so that those children who are having difficulty because of language problems, because of emotional or psychological problems, or because of some physical handicap or learning disability, can receive the individual attention and expert help they need.

If we could actually train a child—and I believe that we can—to read, write and do mathematics early in his or her life, a lot of the expense of re-teaching and a lot of the expenses and often futile remedial programmes at high school and university level would become unnecessary. Thus we could save money in the long run. Not only that, but could save a lot of human frustration, bitterness and anguish on the part of the pupils, the teachers and the parents.

Mr. Martel: We have been saying that for years now.

Mr. Foulds: The equality of educational opportunities and equality of access to education are phrases that roll off the tongues of politicians and educators alike. Is it any wonder that a certain amount of scepticism has grown up about the integrity of such phrases? Nevertheless, these concepts are the backbone of the New Democratic Party educational policy. Furthermore, it is my strong belief that the implementation of these concepts is essential if we are to meet the human needs of those in our educational system.

I am convinced that the style and structure of Ontario's schools in the 1960s ("redbrick factory") symbolized the supermarket, assembly-line approach that the Ontario educational system took in those years. Thus began the dehumanization of education that has led to the ennui, frustration and alienation that presently surrounds education in Ontario.

If we are to get out of this morass of ennui, frustration and alienation, we must reassert certain basic principles and establish certain priorities.

First, the basic underlying principle: Why does society and, in particular, why does Ontario society consider the education of an individual to be important? Ideally, the education of a child or an adult should benefit the individual himself and, secondly, society as a whole. Unless it does both, education fails. In other words, education should allow the individual to develop to his

or her full individual capability, but in return the individual then has a responsibility to use that developed capability not only for his or her own personal benefit but also for the benefit of society as a whole.

I believe that in the last 10 years, by only emphasizing the benefit to the individual of education—that is, getting ahead, getting a job or developing himself or herself—we have dehumanized education to a state of anarchy. Ironically, that anarchy has the form of precisely regulated automation; the obvious example is the timetabling in high schools.

Because of our view of society, we feel that the provincial government's spending priorities must continue to be on services to people. We count education as a primary service to people, as necessary as health and life itself. What, for example, is the use of a person being healthy if he has nothing to be healthy for?

The NDP believes that the key to re-humanizing education is to emphasize once again the importance of the student-teacher relationship. That applies whether the teacher is working with disadvantaged children or with gifted children. As W. L. Morton put it in his perceptive essay, "Student and teacher symbiosis."

This is an intensely human relationship, one of giving and regiving. Unless all our support systems, financial and otherwise, are designed to assist the learner-teacher relationship, those support systems are, in fact, unjustifiable.

To New Democrats, every man, woman and child is indeed entitled to full access to the kind of education that will most fully benefit him or her—and, in turn, benefit society as a whole.

I don't suppose anybody in literature has chronicled the scope of humanity better than Geoffrey Chaucer did several centuries ago in the "Canterbury Tales." It is my job as an NDP legislator to ensure that the needs of this wide scope of humanity in Ontario's society are met. That means that challenging alternatives must be available within our school system for gifted children and for handicapped children. These alternatives must be available for pre-schoolers and for adult learners. They must be available for our native people of the north as well as to the urban immigrant of Metropolitan Toronto. They must be available to the sons and daughters of miners equally as well as

to the sons and daughters of medical practitioners.

Until we achieve this range of alternatives, we cannot say that we have a human and humane system of education in Ontario. Any government or any society that fails to provide these alternatives not only

robs its individual citizens, it robs itself of tremendous social and economic benefits.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for London South is our next speaker.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX

(See page 2884)

Answers to questions were tabled as follows:

44. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry: Would the Minister of Industry and Tourism please provide all information relating to the NODC funding of Thunder Bay Electronics Ltd. (CKPR-CHFD) with particular emphasis on (a) total funding provided; (b) terms for repayment; (c) terms for forgiveness (if any); (d) amount repaid to date; (e) yearly payments; (f) anticipated date when the loan will be totally repaid; and (g) the number of jobs that Thunder Bay Electronics were to have created and the actual number created to date?

Answer by the Minister of Industry and Tourism:

Northern Ontario Development Corp. funding was made available to Thunder Bay Electronics Ltd. (CKPR-CHFD) in 1972 for additional facilities required to provide a second TV channel (CTV) for the Thunder Bay area, in accord with the Canadian Radio and Television Commission's stated objectives of adding a second Canadian Television service to the CBC English coverage.

(a) Total funding provided — by OC 1460/72, May 3, 1972:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| (i) Performance loan | — \$330,000, demand, interest free and forgivable |
| (ii) Term loan | — \$330,000 10 years at 8 per cent |
| Total | <u>\$660,000</u> — secured |

(b) Terms of repayment — (Term loan):

120 monthly blended payments of principal and interest of \$3,981.15 commencing Oct. 15, 1974

(c) Terms of forgiveness — (Performance loan):

- Forgivable over not less than six years from date of final advance if the borrower has, during that period, carried on the operation with regard to which the loan was made, in a manner satisfactory to the corporation. The borrower's future progress in expanding television coverage to other communities in its region will be a substantial factor in judging whether its operations are satisfactory to the corporation.
- Forgiveness at a rate not greater than 10 per cent per year for five years and 50 per cent after the sixth year, from date of final advance.

(d) Amount repaid to date:

- (i) Performance loan—10 per cent forgiven—\$33,000—September, 1975
- (ii) Term loan—\$36,637.33 to May 15, 1976

(e) Yearly payments:

- (i) Performance loan—Nil
- (ii) Term loan—\$47,773.80 principal and interest

(f) Anticipated date when loan will be fully repaid:

- (i) Performance loan—earliest date for full forgiveness is September, 1980
- (ii) Term loan—September 15, 1984

(g) The number of jobs that Thunder Bay Electronics were to have created and the actual number created to date:

Increase employment by 10, from 40 to 50 by end of first year, and by five more, to 55, after five years. At the end of February, 1976, company employs 79 persons, an increase of 39 jobs in less than 4 years.

68. Mr. Germa—Inquiry of the ministry: 1. How many people are employed by the Royal Commission on Electric Power Planning, or are on loan to the commission from other ministries; what is each job title, what date was each hired; and what is each salary? 2. What is the remuneration of each commissioner? 3. How many people, organizations or companies have been or are employed by the commission under contract; what is the name of each; what is/was the service performed; how many days did each work; and how much is/was each

paid? 4. What is the rent on the commission's premises at 14 Carlton St.? 5. How many square feet of space does the commission occupy? 6. What is the total cost of the furniture the commission has purchased or rented for its use? 7. What is the cost of the information network the commission has set up with libraries and other regional depositories; what is the cost of hardware and software or what is the rental fee for equipment and what equipment is rented? 8. How much has the commission spent on acquiring publications, etc. for its "library" at 14 Carlton St.? 9. What is the cost of renting space in which to hold meetings or hearings, in each location in which the commission has held a meeting?

Answer by the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development:

1. There are 17 staff and five commissioners; Dr. William Stevenson from Ontario Energy Board on loan 50 per cent of time, and Robin Scott, QC, is seconded from Attorney General's office, full time.

<u>Staff members</u>		<u>Current Contracts</u>
Ronald C. Smith July 1, 1975	Executive Director \$30/hr. to a maximum of 1,600 hours, to date—	\$38,000.00
Robert Rosehart July 1, 1975	Science Counsellor	25,000.00
Robin Scott Dec. 1, 1975	Legal Counsel	38,733.00
Marc Couse March 31, 1975	Participation Co-ordinator	20,500.00
Ann Dyer Aug. 5, 1975	Librarian/Information	15,000.00
Thelma Hershorn Sept. 23, 1975	Administrator	15,000.00
Kenneth Slater Oct. 1, 1975	Research Co-ordinator	15,000.00
Lyse Morisset-Blais Sept. 29, 1975	Research Officer	22,000.00
Mary Ouchterlony Nov. 24, 1975	Research Officer	18,000.00
Anthony Rockingham Feb. 1, 1975	Research	14,000.00
Karen Gaynor Aug. 29, 1975	Secretary to Chairman	225.00 wk.
Joan Pike Oct. 1, 1975	Secretary to Executive Director	180.00 wk.
Josephine Hachey Dec. 9, 1975	Secretary to Commissioners	180.00 wk.
Sandra Coyne March 15, 1976	Research Secretary	180.00 wk.
Mary-Ann Foster Aug. 11, 1975	Receptionist	150.00 wk.
Helen Connell March 1, 1976	Interest Group Co-ordinator	14,000.00
John Neate Jan. 14, 1976	Executive Officer	375.00 wk.
2. Dr. Arthur Porter (University salary, plus fringe benefits and honorarium of \$2,250.00)		\$48,350.00
Dr. William Stevenson (50 per cent of OEB salary)		18,000.00

Mr. George McCague	110.00/day
Mr. Robert E. Costello	110.00/day
Mrs. Solange Plourde-Gagnon	110.00/day

3. Willhurst Communications—Public Relations Agency.

Total hours 1,319¾	\$40,456.44
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Earl Berger Ltd.—Public Participation Programme.

Total hours 1,276	\$28,563.05
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Public participation field workers: The following were involved with delivery of information kits, organizing and contacting individuals and organizations in the different areas that the meetings were being held.

Mrs. Patricia Adams	29½ hours	\$ 162.25
June Avery	121 hours	484.00
Carol Bruni	330¼ hours	1,900.00
Margery Cartwright	23½ hours	141.00
Deborah Cohen	80 hours	400.00
William DiLouie	199 hours	1,750.00
Walter Davis	269 hours	1,617.00
Francois Desrosiers	50 hours	250.00
Lili Garfinkel	8 hours	52.00
Deborah Goldfield	204 hours	1,428.00
Marni Grossman	108 hours	434.00
Barbara Haskin	127 hours	508.00
Suzann Hunter	10 hours	65.00
Margaret Hunter	147 hours	588.00
Helen Klassen	7 hours	35.00
Peter Labrash	106¼ hours	478.13
Francine Leduc	34 hours	204.00
Bea Mathers	67½ hours	371.25
Jane Morris	64 hours	384.00
Sarah McKie	6 hours	30.00
Jean MacMillan	70 hours	385.00
Elda Osborne	38½ hours	91.20
Lynda Oliver	95 hours	427.50
Marianne Packer	96 hours	528.00
Georgina Paikin	260½ hours	2,867.00
Shelley Paikin	157½ hours	630.00
Michael Panella	148 hours	961.00
Iris Prosser	16 hours	80.00
Sandra Plosker	75½ hours	513.00
Daniel Spinner	20 hours	120.00
Viviane Ship	8 hours	52.00
Elizabeth Simard	91¾ hours	367.00
Thomas Van Horn	182½ hours	1,095.00
Bob Walberg	27 hours	108.00
Bruce Wright	168½ hours	1,432.25
Barbara Weinger	92 hours	460.00
Foster Advertising	— Newspaper Advertising	44,113.46
Arnold Edinborough	— Editorial Assistance	4,000.00

Examiners for information hearings (to May 6, 1976):

Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan	6 days	\$1,800.00
Dr. A. Holloway	9 days	2,700.00
Dr. K. Hare	6 days	1,800.00
Dr. E. G. Pleva	6 days	1,800.00
Dr. D. Bates	6 days	1,800.00
Mr. R. Schwass	6 days	1,800.00
Prof. J. T. Rogers	3 days	900.00
Dr. R. Richards	9 days	2,700.00
Mr. R. Shaw	3 days	900.00

Dr. J. Whitney	3 days	900.00
Dr. F. Galiana	3 days	900.00
Dr. E. J. Davison	9 days	2,700.00

Consultants:

Sempter Paratus Mr. John Myles	Public Attitude Study	\$37,500.00
Dr. C. A. Hooker	The conceptual and institutional	5,400.00
Dr. R. van Hulst (\$8 hr.)	structure of Energy Policy Making in Ont. and its policy alternatives.	
Prof. Norman Pearson (\$200 day)	Land-use implications of electricity supply facits.	5,400.00
Dr. P. Hill, P. Eng. (\$200 day)	A methodology for comparing total costs in electricity supply.	6,000.00
Dr. E. Davison (\$45 hr.)	Energy utilization with special reference to the analysis of efficiency.	4,500.00
Leighton & Kidd Ltd. (\$350 day)	Electrical load management possibilities.	6,500.00
J. O. Dean, C.A. (\$220 day)	Ont. Hydro as an economic development tool of the Province.	4,400.00
G. W. Clayton, P.Eng. (\$300 day)	Power System Reliability	4,200.00
Dr. J. S. Rogers, P.Eng. (\$250 day)	Power System Reliability	1,750.00
Dr. J. A. Buzacott, P.Eng. (\$250 day)	Power System Reliability	1,750.00
Dr. E. J. Davison (\$300 day)	Priority Projects	300.00
Prof. D. Clough (\$300 day)	Priority Projects	300.00

4. \$37,193.28 per annum.

5. 4,708 sq ft.

6. \$27,157.55.

7. (a) \$1,952.18;

(b) Computerized Information Network was cancelled and no fees incurred other than an initial fee of \$2,263.75 for establishment data records which are now used on a manual basis.

8. \$2,220.65.

9. Preliminary Meetings:

London, Ont.	Holiday Inn	\$150.00
Sudbury	Holiday Inn	144.00
Sault Ste. Marie	Holiday Inn	100.00
Timmins	Flora McDonald Public School	36.90
Toronto	U. of T.	112.50
	Sutton Place	400.00
	Royal York	125.00
Ottawa	Civic Centre	180.00
Cornwall	New Parkway Hotel	35.00
Owen Sound	Downtowner Hotel	35.00
Wingham	S. E. Madill School	75.00
Hamilton	McMaster University	150.00
	Royal Connaught	125.00
Thunder Bay	Lakehead University	50.00
	DaVinci Centre	125.00

Kenora	Holiday Inn	105.00
Kingston	Queen's University	15.00
	Holiday Inn	135.00
Peterboro	Holiday Inn	40.00
Listowel	Central Public School	36.00
Windsor	Holiday and Richelieu	225.76
Sudbury	Holiday Inn	202.84
Total		<u>\$6,633.25</u>

London, Ont.	Richard Ivey Building	
	University of Western Ontario	N/C
Windsor, Ont.	Math Building	
	University of Windsor	N/C
Sudbury	Auditorium Laurentian University	N/C
Ottawa	Medical Faculty Room 1117	
	University of Ottawa	N/C
Welland	Courthouse	N/C

Information Hearings:

Toronto	Macdonald Block (eight days)	N/C
London	City Hall (two days)	N/C
Guelph	Conestoga College	\$45.00
Kitchener	Public Library	N/C

83. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry: Would the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations list the liquor stores and brewers retail stores that have opened in the Province of Ontario in the last five years and provide a comparison of sales per capita for the six-month period prior to the opening of the new outlet; the six-month per capita consumption for the community following the opening of the new outlet; and, the per capita consumption of a community from a point in time six months following the opening of a new outlet to the anniversary of that opening.

Answer by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations:

Please refer to the attached correspondence from J. S. Abra, General Manager, Liquor Control Board of Ontario, for the answer to the above question.

New retail stores opened during the period April 1, 1971 to March 31, 1976:

April	2, 1971	315 Third Line and Rebecca St.	Oakville
May	20, 1971	*Perth and Main Streets	Portland
July	22, 1971	Main St.	Wilberforce
July	23, 1971	P.O. Box 69	Honey Harbour
Aug.	13, 1971	*Morton St.	Cobden
Sept.	17, 1971	7205 Goreway Dr.	Mississauga
Oct.	1, 1971	2016-46 Ogilvie Dr.	Ottawa
Oct.	1, 1971	153 Main St.	Wellington
Oct.	18, 1971	1493 Yonge St.	Toronto
Nov.	1, 1971	P.O. Box 130	Richard's Landing
Nov.	22, 1971	*King and Central Ave.	Lincoln
Nov.	24, 1971	6 Yorkdale Shopping Centre	Toronto
Dec.	10, 1971	1249 London Rd.	Sarnia Township
Dec.	14, 1971	860 Aberdeen St.	Hawkesbury
Dec.	21, 1971	2709 Yonge St.	Toronto
Jan.	28, 1972	*St. Albert St.	Casselman
Feb.	8, 1972	502 Lawrence	Toronto
March	16, 1972	Main St.	Carp
April	21, 1972	582 Goderich St.	Port Elgin
May	19, 1972	2356 Kennedy Rd.	Agincourt
May	19, 1972	*Willoughby St.	Lucknow

* Board owned Properties

May	29, 1972	R.R. 1, Dorion	Hurkett
June	15, 1972		Rosspport
June	16, 1972	115 Lakeshore Rd.	St. Catharines
June	21, 1972	Highway 17	Goulais River
June	28, 1972	R.R. 1, Whitefish	Lake Panache
June	30, 1972	Highways 17 and 535	Hagar
July	7, 1972	George St. and Clarence St.	Lanark
July	7, 1972	P.O. Box 176	Port Severn
July	14, 1972	2225 Erin Mills Parkway	Mississauga
July	20, 1972	George Street and Wheatly St.	Sydenham
July	21, 1972	Highway 500	Denbigh
July	27, 1972	207 Manitoba St.	Schreiber
Aug.	1, 1972	*P.O. Box 399	Dundalk
Aug.	2, 1972	P.O. Box 248	Mattice
Aug.	5, 1972	Nelson St. and Highways 46 and 503	Kirkfield
Aug.	5, 1972	P.O. Box 10	Hudson
Aug.	14, 1972	25 Peak-O-Dawn Rd.	Mississauga
Sept.	1, 1972	*St. Philippe St.	Alfred
Sept.	22, 1972	Muskoka St.	Washago
Oct.	5, 1972	Union Station	Toronto
Oct.	14, 1972	40 High St.	Elora
Nov.	4, 1972	James St.	Iron Bridge
Nov.	13, 1972	3427 Weston Rd.	Weston
Nov.	24, 1972	*P.O. Box 98	Smithville
Nov.	25, 1972	1251 Simcoe Street N.	Oshawa
Nov.	27, 1972	2000 Lauzon Rd. and Tecumseh Rd.	Windsor
Dec.	1, 1972	St. Joseph St.	St. Charles
Dec.	8, 1972	2007 Mount Forest Dr.	Burlington
Jan.	13, 1973	Westcliffe Mall, 925 Ontario St.	Stratford
Jan.	22, 1973	911 Jane St.	Toronto
Feb.	13, 1973	1009 Coxwell Ave.	Toronto
Feb.	24, 1973	8552 Willoughby Dr.	Chippawa
March	1, 1973	*P.O. Box 310	Newcastle
March	12, 1973	119-129 Second Line W.	Sault Ste. Marie
April	2, 1973	Perth St.	Richmond
April	12, 1973	1 Byng Ave.	Kapuskasing
May	2, 1973	300 Borough Dr.	Scarborough
May	10, 1973	R.R. 14, Dog Lake Rd.	Lappe
May	11, 1973	*125 Sall St.	Red Rock
May	18, 1973	2458 Dundas St. W.	Mississauga
May	28, 1973	Greenwin Square, 345 Bloor St. E.	Toronto
June	14, 1973	Ward and Colborne Streets	Bridgenorth
June	18, 1973	*262 Edinburgh Rd. S.	Guelph
June	21, 1973	Hastings Rd.	Warkworth
June	22, 1973	*P.O. Box 160	Delta
June	28, 1973	Highway 62 E.	Maynooth
July	6, 1973	Second St.	South Baymouth
July	20, 1973	5 Main Street N.	Callander
Aug.	11, 1973	Highway 506	Plevna
Sept.	10, 1973	25 Main St. E.	Lambeth
Sept.	13, 1973	*90 Peterborough St.	Norwood
Sept.	27, 1973	Cedar Ave.	Thorne
Oct.	3, 1973	Square One, 100 City Centre Dr.	Mississauga
Nov.	27, 1973	*P.O. Box 799	Pelham
Nov.	30, 1973	3060 Falconbridge Highway	Garson
Dec.	15, 1973	2300 Yonge St.	Toronto
Dec.	15, 1973	217 Yonge St.	Stroud
Dec.	17, 1973	*4-10'h Avenue S.	Earlton

* Board owned Properties

March	9, 1974	900 Dufferin St.	Toronto
April	4, 1974	*Queen St., P.O. Box 69	Langton
May	28, 1974	Superior St., P.O. Box 819	Stayner
June	10, 1974	General Delivery	Longbow Lake
June	14, 1974	Loyalist Shopping Plaza, Manitou Cres.	Amherstview
June	19, 1974	Biddy St. and Highway 520	Magnetawan
June	21, 1974	Bay and River Streets	Baysville
June	28, 1974	General Delivery	Newboro
June	29, 1974	P.O. Box 190	Woodville
July	5, 1974	P.O. Box 9	Echo Bay
July	22, 1974	Sherwood Forest Shopping Mall	London
Aug.	2, 1974	Manotick Mews, P.O. Box 518	Manotick
Aug.	12, 1974	1565 Barton St. E.	Hamilton
Oct.	15, 1974	*Corner Highways 17 and 535	Hagar
Oct.	21, 1974	Lower Cumberland Terrace, 2 Bloor St. W.	Toronto
Nov.	20, 1974	Billings Bridge Plaza, 123-2269 Riverside Dr.	Ottawa
Nov.	29, 1974	*229 Hamilton Rd., P.O. Box 340	Dorchester
Dec.	3, 1974	8129 Yonge St.	Thornhill
Dec.	9, 1974	55 Bloor St. W.	Toronto
Jan.	10, 1975	*82 Hope St. W., P.O. Box 488	Tavistock
Jan.	11, 1975	55 Queen St. S., P.O. Box 340	Tottenham
Feb.	28, 1975	12 Serpentine St., P.O. Box 1101	Copper Cliff
April	1, 1975	5508 Lawrence Ave. E.	West Hill
April	14, 1975	87 Front St. E.	Toronto
April	21, 1975	12 Gower St.	Toronto
May	16, 1975	Hwy. 620, P.O. Box 59, Centre St.	Coe Hill
June	13, 1975	Major MacKenzie Dr. and Netherford Rd.	Maple
July	17, 1975	*43 Arthur St., P.O. Box 179	Thornbury
Aug.	5, 1975	c/o Corblock, 80 King St.	St. Catharines
Aug.	27, 1975	960 Brookdale Ave.	Cornwall
Aug.	30, 1975	1158 Dundas St. E.	Mississauga
Sept.	2, 1975	1586 Huron Church Rd.	Windsor
Sept.	15, 1975	*Turnberry St., P.O. Box 279	Brussels
Oct.	1, 1975	c/o General Delivery, Church St.	Orono
Oct.	23, 1975	1005 Ottawa St. N.	Kitchener
Nov.	7, 1975	3076 Don Mills Rd. E.	Willowdale
Nov.	7, 1975	*3169 Yonge St.	Toronto
Nov.	26, 1975	686 Queenston Rd., Stoney Creek	Hamilton
Nov.	29, 1975	181 Bank St.	Ottawa
Dec.	16, 1975	*Caesar Rd., P.O. Box 190	Belmont
Dec.	31, 1975	Main St., Highway 21	Bayfield
Jan.	19, 1976	409 Highland Rd. W.	Kitchener
Jan.	31, 1976	1695 Main St. W.	Hamilton
Feb.	27, 1976	Morin St., Box 147	Field
March	5, 1976	25 The West Mall	Etobicoke
March	15, 1976	2 Beaverton Rd.	Kanata
March	17, 1976	6222 Yonge St.	Willowdale

* Board owned Properties

Brewers Warehousing Co. Ltd.: New retail stores opened during the period April 1, 1971 to March 31, 1976:

June	14, 1971	Main and Perth Streets	Portland
July	23, 1971	215 George St.	Mitchell
Aug.	23, 1971	486 Great Northern Rd.	Sault Ste. Marie
Sept.	20, 1971	2016-44 Ogilvie Rd.	Ottawa
Nov.	22, 1971	65 Ontario St.	Lincoln
Dec.	6, 1971	2061 Weston Rd.	Weston
Dec.	13, 1971	1889 Paris St.	Sudbury
Dec.	13, 1971	2731 Yonge St.	Toronto

May	1, 1972	8150 Tecumseh Blvd. E.	Windsor
May	1, 1972	499 Appleby Line	Burlington
June	19, 1972	2360 Kennedy Rd.	Toronto
June	27, 1972	3078 Don Mills Rd.	Toronto
July	10, 1972	Cumberland St. and Wolsley St.	Thunder Bay
Aug.	11, 1972	Highway 27 and Hugel Ave.	Midland
Aug.	21, 1972	112 Burns St.	New Hamburg
Oct.	2, 1972	Jane Park Plaza, 839 Jane St.	Toronto
Dec.	5, 1972	Service Road	Spanish
Dec.	5, 1972	285 Taunton Rd. E.	Oshawa
Dec.	15, 1972	572-640 Mohawk Rd. W.	Hamilton
Feb.	5, 1973	15 Municipal St.	Guelph
Feb.	26, 1973	244 C. H. Meier Blvd.	Stratford
March	12, 1973	Highway 2 and King St. E.	Newcastle
April	17, 1973	178 Main St. N.	Uxbridge
May	18, 1973	3030 Erindale Station Rd.	Mississauga
May	28, 1973	345 Bloor St. E.	Toronto
June	20, 1973	300 Borough Dr.	Scarborough
July	12, 1973	1380 Lambton Rd.	Sarnia
Aug.	29, 1973	125 Lindsay St.	Fenelon Falls
Aug.	29, 1973	500 Princess St.	Kingston
Dec.	17, 1973	Ottawa St.	Havelock
Jan.	28, 1974	248 Stirling Ave. S.	Kitchener
Feb.	4, 1974	25 King St. E.	Bobcaygeon
March	11, 1974	300 King George Rd.	Brantford
April	26, 1974	2005 Finch Ave. N.	Toronto
May	3, 1974	2291 Kipling Ave. N.	Toronto
May	16, 1974	650 King St. E.	Oshawa
May	27, 1974	44 Scott St.	St. Catharines
Aug.	16, 1974	Highway 41	Northbrook
Sept.	6, 1974	2458 Dundas St.	Mississauga
Oct.	7, 1974	5544 Lawrence Ave. E.	Scarborough
Nov.	4, 1974	P.O. Box 590	Azilda
Nov.	25, 1974	712 Baseline Rd.	London
Dec.	3, 1974	1383 Carling Ave.	Ottawa
Dec.	3, 1974	8125 Yonge St.	Thornhill
Dec.	17, 1974	Laurier St.	Rockland
March	15, 1976	417 Edward St. N.	Thunder Bay

Sales per capita or per capita consumption for communities serviced by liquor and Brewers Retail outlets:

There has never been a survey to ascertain per capita sales or consumption of the community serviced by either liquor stores or Brewers' Retail stores.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Thursday, June 3, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(continued)

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Continuing with the estimates of the Ministry of Education, the Chair will recognize the hon. member for London South.

Mr. Ferris: Mr. Chairman, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise and open this debate on the education estimates on behalf of my party. Because we in the Liberal Party believe that the education of the students of Ontario is of such great importance, these estimates and debates on where we are going with our system take on even more weight. As a personal comment, I must say it's a little more relaxed now than doing it on the second day of being a rookie member, which happened in the fall.

First, I should say I believe it is most unfortunate that this debate will be working under severe time limitations, 5½ hours in total which is two hours less than in the fall. In an area which so directly affects the future of the province and which represents almost 17 per cent of every provincial dollar spent and, in total, probably \$4 billion in the province when the amounts of the municipalities and universities are added in, probably 10 times this amount of time would still not be adequate. With this in mind we will try to limit these opening remarks to a few areas of deep concern and hope that with the co-operation of the members of the House we will succeed in covering at least the members' major concerns in the item by item votes.

Although it has been only a few short months since our last debate, many things have happened in the interval. To put it mildly, there has been a great deal of turmoil and upset in education throughout Ontario in this time-frame. Certainly the most significant changes in education made by this government have been in its financing policies. I will return to that later but first, as it should

be, let's look at the most important part: What is going on in the schooling of our children and, as the minister says, where are we going?

As we travel and meet with people around the province—teachers, trustees, students as well as parents—we encounter what seems to be an even greater sense of frustration that the system still does not have what we might call an overall game plan. I am not sure the minister would agree with me that those people who are working within the education system—teachers, administrators and trustees—are overwhelmingly people who want to do a good job in a professional manner so that they can be proud of the product coming from our schools.

Without question, I support the concept that an education system should be concerned with allowing the opportunity to each individual student to meet his or her maximum potential. In doing this, surely it is not necessary to reach the point where people within the system itself are making comments such as that diplomas are meaningless.

It would be possible to stand here and read ad nauseam, I suppose, statements by individuals, results of surveys, comments of educational people, members of the business community and, most importantly, parent groups and what they believe is happening to standards. They believe it is their right to expect that as a student proceeds on the educational ladder, the steps in that ladder represent that some kind of consistent provincial level of mastery at least of the basics has been achieved.

There is no point in reading these reports. You and your staff are fully aware of these statements yet we really see no visible reaction to them. In your comments today, I was pleased to note that you say changes will be made. I believe and I sincerely hope that you are sincere when you make those comments.

Certainly we would not expect our schools today to be identical with the system which educated us and certainly we agree that the skills of the future will be different. The minister will say our comments on standards are just rhetoric but they compare well with

what we hear when we ask for clear definitions and they are attempted in such statements as: "Products of the system today are better educated than their parents were"; or "the children of the future must learn how to learn"; or "students may not possess basic skills but they can think better."

The skills of the future might be different but barring a breakthrough in mental telepathy, verbal and written communications will still be important. There must be some virtue in being able to perform mathematical calculations without total dependence on calculators. Future needs may be different but basic skills will still be necessary as a foundation for whatever additional knowledge or skills are needed at that time.

Education is bound to change and there is no reason this generation cannot be better educated than the last one. The problem today is the lack of accountability and hard evidence that we receive value for the amounts expended.

If it is unfair and wrong to measure success or failure in the basic skills in subjects, it is next to impossible to quantify objectively ability to think and the other vague virtues which are said to stem from this system. We must look at the causes of frustration and deal with these problems. No, it's not a return to the lockstep approach but a co-operative plan with some guarantees.

In the 1974 estimates, Mr. Minister, you made comments regarding evaluation at the student level and of the system as a whole. Again last October, in the 1975 estimates, much of your comment dealt with the evaluation process. Today your major thrust, as I see it, is in the analysing of the system and evaluation. I wait most anxiously for the results of those various pieces of documentation and information that you have stated are being gathered and being compiled at this time. I am most interested in some of those reports, and I believe the people of Ontario are most interested.

It would be wrong not to comment at least briefly on the matter of strikes within the system. There are those who claim Bill 100 is dead as a result of what has transpired since January. I personally do not want to take that view. Without question, damage has been done to the educational programmes of large numbers of students. I am also willing to admit that I don't have the answer to this very complex issue of strike or no strike; or better still, a solution that would not make it necessary at all to

end in this position. We are discussing these positions and these possible solutions.

I would certainly welcome dialogue at any time with anyone, including you, Mr. Minister, in an honest effort to eliminate or reduce these interruptions in our educational system. Again, I believe the ministry has undertaken testing of the students who were subjected to these strikes, and it would be very informative to have the results at the earliest possible time to these questions.

We must also re-examine, I believe, the role of the ERC and question whether we are achieving consistency from our fact-finders or do we have proper guidelines for the commission to work under? I note in the estimates that the first full year's operation calls for expenditures of over \$900,000, compared to only \$165,000 in 1975. This bears close scrutiny and evaluation as to what the performance of the ERC has been.

On the matter of trustees, I would also like to make some comments. I think that my friends in the NDP are not as nearly associated with trustees as perhaps the minister and myself have been in the past.

Mr. Ferrier: The chairman of our school board supports the NDP; what are you talking about?

Mr. Acting Chairman: Order.

Mr. Ferris: Obviously, some of the points that were proposed by the critic for the NDP have already been addressed by trustee organizations in the province. I would say to the minister that I sincerely support them, obviously, because I had a part in the formation of the group that represents the large boards of trustees in Ontario. I think that group was begun because of a sense of total frustration that their views were not being heard.

There are other problems that must be faced as we look at the trustee groups, though, and we must recognize that the legislation would have to come forward to bring into effect the recognition of these groups. While looking at that, Mr. Minister, you might want to comment later on what you feel is the value of trustee organizations. I would sincerely suggest that a total review of the structure of the OSTC should be made for minor modifications; or as some may suggest major modifications. The exact thing the critic for the NDP has been suggesting would then be met. In defence of them, I must also state they do worry about

curriculum and things like this within the trustee groups.

I'd like now to address a few comments to the area of financing of our system. Mr. Minister, there are many points to be challenged in this area, but really they all come down to one very basic issue. This is the inability of boards to intelligently plan so that the educational dollar is most effectively used. In our debate last fall, we said that obviously ceilings had ceased to perform the function for which they were intended.

[8:15]

As a person who sincerely believes in local autonomy, I congratulate the minister on his action in removing the ceilings in December. However, I must seriously disagree with how it was done. First, I would say that I don't believe the minister really was fully aware of the effect there would be on local tax rates as a result of the change in the support levels of the general grants, the declining enrolment grants and the transportation grants; and especially how it affects county boards. Dufferin, for example, has experienced a 45 per cent increase in their tax rate; the increase for the average board, I believe, could probably be set at around 30 per cent. This raises many questions.

If proper planning is to be carried out, it was a totally unacceptable adjustment—one that should have been phased in over a period of time. Just as the increase to that level was not done in one shot, the reduction back to the lower level should have approximated the same time frame. Mr. Minister, you are fully aware that budget changes are extremely difficult to accomplish when this action is taken in December and when a board has already committed virtually 60 per cent of its next year's financing and very little adjustment can be made to that portion. I believe it is incumbent upon you and your staff to provide information to boards earlier—perhaps not later than October—so that proper, reasoned adjustments can be made.

I think it is a very true statement that trustees of the boards across the province should generally be complimented for the level of constraint they have exercised. Overall, boards have maintained a very reasonable level of expenditure increase when one compares 1976 levels to those of 1975. The tax rate is a different question. The unfortunate point of this, however, is that the areas that should be cut least, in fact, did bear an overly large chunk of the reduction. Special

education areas have been reduced—an area where we can least afford to do it. Consulting psychologists have been released by boards. All of the preventive areas, or those where additional effort is really required, have suffered. In fact, we have reduced the possibility of certain students really being a part of a system where equal opportunity for every individual student exists. The very obvious area of supplies has generally suffered dramatic cuts. We hear of boards cutting by 40 per cent to 60 per cent, and I am sure the members of this House can appreciate how difficult it is to teach without supplies.

The final stroke was administered by making a major adjustment in the cash flow of grants to the boards, by cutting in half the amount they receive for the first three months of the year. I would hope the minister would give us some explanation of why this was necessary and why the memo from his ministry's business section, explaining the cash flow for each year, could not be issued prior to March 26 or in some cases May or even later. Surely this does not allow for proper planning.

Previously in the House we asked why it was necessary to use Management Board orders for \$77 million. The answer was far from adequate. I believe the statistics given by the minister today indicated 96 per cent of the ministry's funds are dedicated for distribution back to school boards and various other groups, and these people are committed to a position whereby they must inform his ministry by June of their requirements for the year. I find it incredible then that the minister would take the action of going the route of Management Board orders and not come back to the Legislature with supplementary estimates. Obviously, there is very little flexibility or change in the latter part of the year in the spending in this area. The minister was able to go around the province with a document showing that increases of \$77 million had actually taken effect in December, but this House sat many times after that.

To go back briefly to the effect of the cash flow problem, are we really saying that if we'd followed the previous year's cash flow patterns, we would have exceeded the 1975-1976 estimates—including the \$77 million that was passed—by \$150 million? Or did we simply change so we would not have to increase the provincial deficit for 1975-1976 by another \$80 million or so.

Boards have been forced to incur additional borrowing, and the paying of interest money,

money that could be used in a much more meaningful way. Does this really allow for good planning?

Mr. Minister, I say to you, that you have not been totally forthright in portraying what is really going on in the financing of education in Ontario. No mention was made about the change in cash flow as you went about the province saying grants to local boards would be increasing by 9.7 per cent. If this change was not made, it would indicate in fact the transfers to local boards is really only an increase of \$53 million, not \$140 million, or in fact they were really given an increase of only 3.3 per cent. I am sure even you would have difficulty convincing anyone that this is reasonable. And does this allow for good planning?

Mr. Chairman, in the interest of time, I will reserve my other comments for the individual votes. However, I would hope the minister would comment on some of the questions.

Just before concluding, would the minister or his staff advise us of the actual distribution of the Management Board orders, so that we can bring our estimates up-to-date for comparison purposes—where the \$77 million was allocated?

Mr. Acting Chairman: Does the minister care to respond?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, what was the last question that the hon. member asked?

Mr. Ferris: I believe these Management Board orders were not in the estimates for 1975, so for comparison purposes would you explain where they were eventually distributed?

Hon. Mr. Wells: The Management Board orders were under the general legislative grant, and I think Mr. Auld answered that question on April 22. They were for \$76.4 million.

Mr. Ferris: And there were no others?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, only those two. And they really in fact came about because of the changes in ceilings and grants which were brought in last year, as my friend will recall. The supplemental was brought in some time in, I think it was early or mid-March, when the expenditure ceilings and grants were changed last year; that really was the reason for the supplemental expenditures.

I will just quickly comment on a couple of the things that were raised, and then we

can deal with a lot of them in the section-by-section review.

I do want to comment on a couple of things said by my friend from Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds). First of all, his comments about school trustees and school boards are very well taken. I think all of us believe that everyone in education should be co-operating with one another, not confronting one another. I have said this many times around this province. I have also said all of the things that he said I should say around this province, and I think that he knows that as well as I do. We have appeared on a few panels together and he has appeared at a lot of groups, I am sure—teachers' groups and so forth—and so have I, and the message that I bring is not any different in any different place or to any different group. It is one of very much the same tenor of what I presented in opening the estimates today.

Insofar as trustee-ministry, school board-ministry liaison is concerned, I want to tell him that we do have regular meetings at the present time between the ministry and the Ontario School Trustees' Council. Indeed, the trustees of this province have been far ahead of the municipal liaison committee because they had a co-ordinating body of school trustee organizations by statute of this Legislature way, way before the Provincial-Municipal Liaison Committee was ever thought of. The group has been meeting, albeit not on a formalized basis, such as the Provincial-Municipal Liaison Committee meets, but in previous years on a somewhat ad hoc basis and in the last few years on a fairly regular basis, with the Minister of Education, doing the very same kind of thing that the Provincial-Municipal Liaison Committee does.

Mr. Foulds: How many times a year?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Two or three times a year, whenever they are having their regular meeting here in Toronto.

Mr. Lewis: Not good enough.

Hon. Mr. Wells: They meet at that particular time and any other time they want to come in and see the minister. The door of my office is never closed to any of these groups. Unlike the Provincial-Municipal Liaison Committee, I am sure my friend, the Leader of the Opposition, knows this, there are other groups which also meet on a regular basis with us in the ministry and should meet with us. We meet four or five times a year on a regular basis with the Ontario Teachers' Federation—a regular meeting with agendas and so forth.

We meet on a lesser scale but one which will probably be increasing with the Ontario Association of Educational Administration Officers and with the Ontario Association of School Business Officials. All of these people are very directly concerned with the school board educational function in this province. Really, when I have any meetings concerned with anything in education, all these groups must be involved.

In the municipal field, as my friends knows, the so-called Provincial-Municipal Liaison Committee, while its members are mostly elected people—all of them I believe—speaks on behalf of everybody. Its members don't meet with employees of the municipalities or any of the unions which work for the municipalities or the kind of people that we, in the Ministry of Education, meet on a regular basis to talk about what is going on in education.

As well as those meetings with the school trustees' council and the teachers' federation, which are the co-ordinating bodies, there are from time to time individual meetings with individual component members of those groups. Part of that whole situation involving school trustees' councils has to do with the individual rights that certain members of the school trustees' council feel they must uniquely and on their own present to the ministry, not in conjunction with the co-ordinated school trustees' council.

Really, I think, when you take it all together the kind of liaison we have established here is one we certainly are pleased with. There is always room for improvement but we believe in consultation. I think, as I said in my speech several times, a lot of the things and reports we are concerned with and which will be presented will not be finally acted upon until all those groups have had a chance to consult with us, to talk with us and give their opinions on the kind of things which are going to happen.

The other thing is concerned with training programmes and seminars for trustees. It has been a long-standing policy of this ministry to co-operate with the trustees' council and trustees' groups on their various programmes. We give a grant of something like \$35,000 to the school trustees' council in order to help it with programmes. We give a grant to the public school trustees; to the separate school trustees' association; and to several of the other groups in order to help them with various leadership conferences and things they might be planning.

We also work with them on certain schools for new trustees. We provide ministry personnel; we sit down and help them organize if they wish. There has been a long record of co-operation and co-operative programming for trustees between the ministry and the trustees' organizations.

This extends to the other organizations also, particularly the administrative officials and the school business officials.

I think my friend indicated some concern about the new larger school boards' association. This group is in the process of being formed and the member for London South has had some interests in an attachment with this group. He knows they feel they can serve a useful purpose and I think this may be so. I think we are going to have to wait and see.

I think it does present problems. It may not perhaps smooth over some of the feelings between the larger and the smaller boards in this province if it looks as though all the big boards are ganging up to make their point of view known without a real concern for the smaller boards of this province. I think it is very healthy that both types of board know what the other's problems are and what their concerns are so they can mesh those concerns and solve them together—not each putting its problems to me and expecting us to solve them in isolation. Therefore, I have suggested to trustees' council and will suggest to the larger boards' association that they become part of the trustees' councils. If they agree to this we will bring in an amendment to the Act and they can become another constituent body in the trustees' council, being able to speak on behalf of the boards that they have as members, but also being part of the total school board trustee association and concern in this province.

[8:30]

Mr. Ferris: Thank you. Would the minister likely bring in other amendments to the OSTC governing legislation, such as removing the veto power at that time?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I was going to comment on that. You talked about a review of the OSTC structure. It's my belief, and I've said this to the trustees' council many times, that it isn't our job here in the ministry to tell them how they should operate their organization. It's the job of the trustees' council, the trustee organizations, and the trustees of this province to tell us how they want to operate

their organization and then come to us and ask us for changes in that legislation.

I don't really think that I, unilaterally, should remove what is known as the veto power. In other words, if one of the constituent member associations of trustees' council doesn't want a matter discussed by trustees' council they can veto it, something like the Security Council veto in the UN. It's not a particularly good thing from the point of view of having good discussion on trustees' council and from me, for instance, as minister, personally being able to ask them to comment on a particular situation or problem or concern. If one of the groups doesn't want trustees' council to talk about it well then they cannot comment on it to me.

We've had his happen. The most vivid example was the amendments to the Education Act concerning French language schools. At that time I was unable to get any input from trustees' council on that because several of the groups didn't want it even discussed or a position taken. But that provision has been put in the Act for the protection of certain of the members who belong to that group and I think that they, frankly, have got to come to their own conclusion that it shouldn't be there before we can change it.

So therefore my answer is that no, we wouldn't bring in that amendment, unless trustees' council asks us for it. If they ask us for it we'll do it. But I will bring in an amendment if the larger school boards wish to become a part of trustees' council as I believe that they should; we'll be happy to amend the Act in that way. I'm meeting with them in another week or so.

I think that the only other thing that I'd like to say at this point concerning some of the things that have been said, is in the area of evaluation; the hon. member for London South (Mr. Ferris) talked about evaluation and what we had said in our recent speeches.

We are going to be bringing in some proposals soon on this particular area—the evaluation testing, reporting area. I just have to tell him that in our studies that have gone on since we started talking about this, this whole area is fraught with great danger.

We've been looking at what's been happening south of the border, where in certain jurisdictions they sort of rushed into headlong, on the wave of emotionalism, some kind of standardized testing, evaluation of all pupils, by all kinds of mechanisms. Many of them were brought in under

that very unique legislative system they have there where a legislator can get a bill passed to do something and force the state department of education to do something that they've perhaps never even considered or are not ready to do. This, of course, is part of the problem with the American system. But they've rushed into a lot of accountability testing proposals that have gone on the rocks, have fallen onto very tough times and have not done any of the things that they wanted to do.

One of the big dangers that we've got to watch is that we don't in any way link evaluation and assessment and accountability with the kind of money that school boards get, such as, for instance, the Ontario Economic Council recommended in their report. This, I submit, would be disastrous, would be a danger, and is the kind of thing that we can't let ourselves fall into. There are other things we can deal with as we get into the point-by-point discussion.

On vote 2901:

Mr. Acting Chairman: Shall vote 2901, item 1 carry? Carried.

Item 2. The member for Port Arthur.

Mr. Foulds: I just have a couple of questions that I'd like the minister to respond to on 2902, to do with the James Bay Education Centre. Can he bring us up to date on that as a result of both the internal and the external reports which were done on the centre? I noticed the amendments to the Education Act mentioned the James Bay Lowland Secondary School Board; I would like to know the relationship between the two and the ministry's present position and status on that particular institution.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Following the internal and external evaluation of the centre and the report which was tabled—which I'm sure you have had—meetings were held in Moosonee with various groups. As an outgrowth of the report it was decided that secondary education should be provided in the area and that it should be provided by the James Bay Lowland Secondary School Board.

This board has been established. It has on it four members. These have been elected. They are now operating. There is provision for three more members to be appointed from the Indian bands in the area served by the board if and when they decide to begin negotiations with the school board.

This is an interesting point. When they decide they want to negotiate to have the school board provide secondary education, they can be appointed to the board, which is a little different from what the Act says in regard to the number of pupils. In the general legislation once you have the number of pupils in the system, then you have to appoint a trustee. They can be appointed as soon as they indicate they wish to negotiate for secondary education.

To this point, none of the three bands has indicated this—but the board is presently in the process of setting up secondary educational programmes. They will have to find facilities for the secondary programmes and they have indicated their preference is for facilities at the old Canadian Forces base rather than in the Education Centre.

The Education Centre has offered or indicated its facilities would be available to the secondary school board but the elected board will have to make up its mind. I understand it wishes to operate at the old Canadian Forces base.

The James Bay Education Centre which, of course, is created by letters patent, not by an Act of this Legislature, continues to remain in operation for the various purposes it has. In these estimates is \$504,000 for the operation of the James Bay Education Centre for the other programmes it will be operating. There is a continuing review of the structure and the future of that centre at the present time.

We haven't arrived, with them, at any particular future pattern for the centre, whether it will remain exactly as it is or whether it will become some other type of organization. There are various alternatives which have been looked at. Perhaps it should come under Colleges and Universities as some kind of centre that it would operate. Perhaps it should come under one of the community colleges which also operates programmes in that area. There is still an ongoing look being taken at the future operation of that centre.

At the present time, it is legally constituted under letters patent and we will continue to make available the grant of \$504,000.

Mr. Foulds: One of my colleagues wants to add something—obviously several members of the Liberal Party do also. What are the programmes then? Could you very quickly, briefly, outline programmes remaining in the education centre? And could you indicate what proportion of the facility of the centre will now be vacant or not used if the secondary school board takes up residence

or administers its programmes in the facility at the air force base?

Hon. Mr. Wells: First of all, part of the total complex of the centre is being used by the elementary school boards, but that isn't under the control of the James Bay Education Centre. There are two elementary school boards, but they are using physical facilities that are connected to the centre. There are academic upgrading programmes going on, nursery school programmes, some clerical training programmes going on, but the manpower training programme is not in operation at the present time.

Mr. Foulds: Could you give us your capital costs of that centre?

Hon. Mr. Wells: About \$3 million.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Minister, under the heading of a northern education centre fighting for its life, I have a couple of questions. First of all, I notice that the budget was reduced from \$580,000 to \$504,000.

Now given the fact that this centre is trying to get back on its feet again, that would appear on the surface at least to be a rather difficult decision, or an awkward decision to make. The new director and some of the people who are trying to get the place going feel this is a little vindictive on somebody's part, that they are being penalized; to use their own terminology, that they are paying dearly for past mistakes. And also given the fact they had a deficit of over \$400,000 to try and do something with, I would like the minister to respond as to why that kind of a decision would be made.

Also it's indicated here that \$380,000 of the \$504,000, is for operating expenses, and that doesn't leave very much for other kinds of programmes which that area very badly needs. For example, it was pointed out that a recent visitor was shown unused classrooms in carpentry, welding and such, simply because they can't get those programmes going.

Basically, Mr. Minister, the thrust of my question is: Are we doing the right thing at this time, given the attempts of these people to try and get this thing rolling again? It does seem to be the wrong decision.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, I think that's a very good question. I presume my friend has had a copy of the evaluation report. I guess your concern about being penalized for past mistakes is a valid one, because certainly there have been some past mistakes up there. Some pretty questionable manage-

ment has gone on up there. In fact, if we hadn't assisted financially, the whole operation could have gone bankrupt about six or eight months ago, because they were in debt and the bank was going to cut off their credit and so forth.

Actually we are not reducing their budget at all this year to any significant degree, because they had \$580,000 last year. We started with \$580,000; we deducted \$100,000 because of the transfer of secondary school programmes for which they will not have any responsibility because of the new school board; we then added a five per cent increase—which is what we were adding to a lot of the items in our budget—and came up with the \$504,000. Now we think that's an adequate amount of money.

We think it's necessary for that board—and I know they are trying with the new director—but it's necessary for them to get down to business. They have to pay attention to the kind of budget they have and to cut their cloth to fit the resources they have. They have to cut their programmes and develop programmes within the resources they have. I think it said in the report:

A review of the budget proposal indicates clearly that the board of governors has been unwilling to rescale and re-establish its programme priorities in order to meet the fiscal restraints that face every other sector of this province.

That was in the evaluation report concerning the 1975-1976 budget, when they were so much over their budget and had to come to us for money in effect to bail them out. So we really think we are not in any way penalizing them, we are just giving them the resources and telling them to get on with the job.

[8:45]

Mr. McClellan: I would just like to ask a couple of brief questions while we are on the James Bay Education Centre. Is the board still an appointed board?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, it is an appointed board under their bylaws and charter.

Mr. McClellan: Right. I think I raised this in the last estimates or in the supplementary estimates; it's a perennial question, I suppose. How much longer you are going to continue to appoint the board? Let me suggest to you that this costly, I suppose, and rather futile exercise need not have happened if the community in Moosonee had been consulted originally in a meaningful way around

what the educational priorities were for that community. I think you would have found as long as eight or nine years ago that the priority in the area was for a secondary school to serve the east coast communities.

The failure of an appointed board has been almost complete with respect to this facility. I thought you had given some indication in the last estimates that consideration would be given to the establishment of an elected board. I'm not sure what the problems are in moving in that direction, in fact if there are any problems. But surely the lesson has been learned that it is not possible to plan for these communities on the basis of Toronto-based appointments. It is not possible to plan for these facilities other than on the basis of democratically elected community boards who can accurately reflect the needs, aspirations and desires of the local communities. I hope that we have learned our lesson from this rather sad experience and that we can go on to a more productive future in the area.

Can I ask you how long the process of deliberation determining the future use of the James Bay Education Centre will take? It seems to be an almost interminable process.

Hon. Mr. Wells: First of all, let me say that we have done what we can within the parameters of this ministry's control insofar as electing a board. I believe that's the best way also. But the James Bay Education Centre is not a creature of this Legislature or this ministry. The grant to that corporation, created under the laws of this province, goes through our ministry and we make the grant to them. But, in effect, if they were to elect their board, they would have to change their bylaws; and I suppose we would have to say no more money unless you change those by-laws.

What we have done is, we have said we will set up a secondary school board, because there has been not wholehearted enthusiasm for the board's running secondary school programmes in the area at the centre. Following this report and community involvement, we have instituted and set up the James Bay Lowlands Secondary School Board. It is elected and will run the secondary school programmes for which this ministry has responsibility. The school boards that run the programmes in the facilities attached to the centre, both Roman Catholic separate and public, are elected at the present time. That leaves a James Bay Education Centre board, created by letters patent under the Corpora-

tions Act of this province, to run a facility concerned with things that are not basically those of this ministry. That is why I suggested that the ongoing process now is to find out where and how that group should fit in to the total picture in this province. Personally, I don't think they should remain in the Ministry of Education. The elementary and secondary programmes are here now. They probably should be in the Ministry of Colleges and Universities in some manner. Perhaps that manner could change the way the board is chosen, although I must point out to you, as you know, that community college boards across this province are not elected and I don't think that has been particularly a disadvantage to community colleges.

Mr. Foulds: Oh yes it has.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Well that depends on where you sit, I think, but—

Mr. Foulds: That's right.

Mr. Bullbrook: What criteria do you use?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Do we use for what?

Mr. Bullbrook: For the appointment of community college boards of governors.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That is not my responsibility.

Mr. Bullbrook: No, I know. But I would like to know what you regard the criteria to be.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I don't think that I should get into what the criteria for appointment to community college boards—

Mr. Bullbrook: Why did you bring it up then?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I used it as an example, concerning the James Bay Education Centre, which board we are now appointing.

Mr. Bullbrook: That's quite inappropriate.

Mr. R. S. Smith: What criteria do you apply at James Bay?

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is not inappropriate because that is under the Act of the Legislature of this province—the community college boards. I am pointing out that as far as the James Bay Education Centre is concerned there isn't any Act we can change to allow that board to be elected.

Mr. Wildman: May I just ask the minister, don't you think that at this point in time,

after the history of that facility, that it is really worth pursuing the matter of securing, with whatever leverage you can, a democratically-elected board for that facility? I say that simply on the basis of the rather sorry history of that facility over the last seven or eight years.

I frankly don't hold much hope for any rational use of the facility until it does become accountable to the community in a serious kind of way.

Hon. Mr. Wells: At this point in time all I can say is that we are continuing our discussions about what is going to be the ongoing role, form and substance of that centre. We have created the school board and now we will see what happens with the rest. I can't tell you anything else on that matter.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Mr. Chairman, I just have a few questions in regard to the centre. Now that we have the separate school board and the public school board operating in the centre and we don't have any retraining programme going in there, just how many students are left there—in any programme?

Hon. Mr. Wells: The enrolment in the present high school programme, which they were offering in February before the new board was created—and these students presumably will go with the new high school board—was 33. There are 15 enrolled in the nursery school programme, and these are as of Feb. 17. The enrolment in the night school programme was 36 in the fall term and 82 in the winter term. As of Feb. 17 there were 10 people in various programmes in the trades and training section.

Mr. R. S. Smith: As I gather, even counting those that are in the high school programme, you have 58 students there. You had 58 students there as of Feb. 17, including those in the high school programme, at a cost of \$580,000, or \$10,000 per student. I don't for one minute like to indicate that in that area you count dollars as the only criterion, but to say that the centre has been unsuccessful might be a real understatement, I would indicate.

I would like to ask you how many high school students from the area are obtaining their secondary school education outside of the area at the present time. In my community there are a very large number of students who choose to leave the area to obtain their secondary education.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am afraid I haven't got that figure right here, I can get it for

you. But really, until that board is created and we see how many who are attending school in other areas come back and decide to come, they don't have any accurate number, except for the 33 or so who are there. It has been the concern and the wish of the local people that they have their own school board in the area and that is why it is being created.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Are the four people who have been elected to the local school board now all native people?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Three of them are native people and one is not.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Is there an indication that with the establishment of this school board, those people who have chosen to leave, or those students who have chosen to leave for their secondary education—and it is far more than the 33 who are there, because there are well over 100 in my community alone; and I would like to advise you as well that they are at the present time advertising in my community for homes for these students for next fall. So it appears that your secondary school setup, whether it be in the centre or elsewhere, is not proving to be successful; either that or they are advertising for places that are not going to be needed, one or the other.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The member is quite right, Mr. Chairman, there are, of course, people in his community and in other communities in the north; and of course that is going to have to be the decision that will be made. Those programmes, of course, will not be cut off. There are grants paid to those students, resident grants for them to come down and stay in North Bay and go to school there, and that will still be available to them. However, the school will also be available, the new secondary school programme will be available right up in Moosonee.

They are going to have to make the decision; and enrolment is starting now, as you have indicated, for next September. Really, we will not know until the school starts in September how many are going to be there. They did a survey, they tell me, and estimate about 120 were out in communities such as North Bay and other cities across the north where those students are now going to school and boarding in the communities.

There are 200 pupils, approximately, in the public elementary and 200 in the separ-

ate elementary, so there are a fair number there who could go on with a secondary school handy and available; and to some degree co-ordinated, we hope in the future, with the elementary programmes in that particular area. So the potential is there for a fair number.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Your ministry has always talked in terms of 900 and 1,000 students being the minimum in order to provide a functional secondary school, and obviously the best you can expect, if every one of those graduating from the primary level who are going on to secondary education come back, is that you would end up with 150 students. Are you indicating that board will be able to provide a full secondary education with that number of students?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I would think that they will be able to provide, not the kind of school perhaps that is available where you have 900 or 1,000 pupils, but they will be able to provide a functional school. I think that they may, and I guess this is up to the board, start with only a junior programme in grades 9 and 10, beginning September, 1976. That is what they are going to have to decide and that may be what they do, and then provide the opportunity for the students after that to go out into the other schools in the other communities. Then probably as the years advance they will advance an extra grade on the programme.

But they should be able to provide an adequate programme. They will also have available to them the resources of the education centre, which has certain technical and other facilities that can be worked in. It is not going to be that far; even if the school locates out in the basin, they will be able to work something out to use some of those facilities, which would give added facilities that a normal school would provide. There are secondary schools in this province with between 100 and 200 students—not very many, but I tell you if you ever try to close one you will find how valuable the people in the area think they are—that wouldn't have anything like the kind of facilities that might be available, taking the facilities that are at the education centre, if they are available on some kind of rental basis to that school board.

[9:00]

Mr. Nixon: Just briefly, I wanted to raise a matter I've discussed with the minister before which has to do with the \$2.36 million awarded to the Ontario Institute for Studies

in Education. First, may I ask him what the total amount of public funding will be for the institute this year?

Hon. Mr. Wells: The total amount, all things taken together, is \$12,490,000.

Mr. Nixon: We can see that there is a small but significant reduction in the generally increasing trend over the years since OISE was begun. I'd like to ask the minister—I'm sure he has made a public statement on this previously—it seems strange that there hasn't been some significant reaction to the recommendation from the special programme review chaired by the Treasurer, which made specific recommendations about the institute.

I've visited there, as have a number of members, since the recommendations came out. Certainly, the people working there who've done interesting and somewhat valuable work over many years are concerned about those recommendations but I personally feel that the recommendations, while they're very tough, are still reasonable. They ask for the transfer of the degree-granting powers of the institute directly to the University of Toronto. I know the degrees are granted under the aegis of the university now but still the institute operates in a very independent way.

The second recommendation had to do with contracting out specific research which would not otherwise be done by the education faculty. Of course, the basic recommendation is very far-reaching indeed—they almost say it should be closed down and the building rented out for whatever money could be raised.

While this might be something I would favour, certainly it would be an extreme economy but we're still paying our \$2,195,000 a year to whatever holding company through which Gerhard Moog operates the building. It seems to me there should have been a somewhat more substantial response by the ministry, particularly since the recommendations from the Treasurer were so specific and public.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, as the Treasurer has said in this House, as the Premier has said and as I'm going to repeat again, the Henderson report is a report to this government for study and consideration. It doesn't represent government policy. It represents a group of suggestions of things which could be done.

They're all being studied by various committees, groups and bodies in this govern-

ment. The social policy field committee is looking at the relationships of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education to see if the present relationships, the present way of operation, are the right ones. Actually, that study had been going on before the Henderson report.

I can tell you that my personal view is that while we want to look at ways to make the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education a better operation, I don't think it should be so tampered with that it falls out of existence. I think because of a lot of things which happened in the past it has had rather a black cloud over it, some of it deserved, a lot of it not deserved. A lot of that black cloud over it is not deserved. After getting its growing pains—let's separate any controversy over the building that happens to house it and remember that what goes on inside the building is really what we're talking about now.

Mr. Nixon: You can separate it but it's costing us \$2.1 million this year and next year and the year after.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Certainly it's costing us some money but the building is being rented out and I don't think we should let that colour our judgement about the operation of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. It is doing some good work in the area of research; it's providing a very valuable facility to give post-graduate degrees in education and I think it is serving a useful purpose.

As my friend has said, over the years we have cut back the amount of money made available through the block grant in the Ministry of Education for research. The big portion of the money, the \$12,490,000 that the centre will get this year, comes from the BIUs, from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. The rest comes from our block grant, contractual research that the institute bids for and wins and the grants-in-aid programmes that they also apply for and are successful in getting.

As I say, we're looking at the structure and ways that it can be improved, but I wouldn't want to leave you with the impression that we're in any way looking at significantly changing that organization so that it will vanish from the scene.

Mr. Nixon: If I might just follow up briefly, I was very impressed with the minister's opening statement particularly where he said that statistics on a world scale show Canada is spending almost a full percentage

point more of our gross national product on education than any other country in the world—all of the great industrialized western countries as well as the USSR. I was quite impressed with that.

No one is saying that we should not have research in education. Quite the contrary. The minister, who was then chairman of the Scarborough school board, may remember the debates that took place in this House when there really was no research, and opposition spokesmen were urging that research be established. But I feel that the recommendations in this instance, coming from the committee chaired by the Treasurer—I know the minister and others now refer to it as the Henderson report, but in fact it's the McKeough report; it's over his signature that it was presented to this House—present a clear procedure for continuing a reasonable amount of research by moving the graduate facilities directly under the responsibility of the university. I think that perhaps would offer a better means of cost control than we have at the present time, where they have been operating practically independently. After all, they've gone through the formative years in the institute when money was no object; it was obviously a pet project of the former Minister of Education, and in many respects I feel that's why it is still stabled with the sacred cows

Hon. Mr. Wells: I'd just like to say that switching the degree-granting programme for post-graduate degrees in education—the programmes for MEd, MA, Doctor of Education, or PhD—to the University of Toronto would not save one cent, because those are paid for by MCU on a BIU base as well.

Mr. Nixon: Perhaps you wouldn't even need the building.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I have to tell you that the first thing that the University of Toronto would ask us, if we were to make that switch, would be to build a new building—

Mr. Nixon: They couldn't afford to pay the rent on that one.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think they might. They'd either want to take that one over or have us build a new one, because they've wanted us to build a new faculty of education building for a long time.

Mr. Nixon: I think that's a reasonable request.

Hon. Mr. Wells: They're completely dissatisfied with the old building up on Bloor St., as far as I know.

Mr. Nixon: I don't blame them.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The switching over really would not save any money for the taxpayers of this province; it might only change the ownership of the building or where the students are or how they're connected.

Really, we're talking about something around \$3 million for research programmes in education that the institute is doing. When you look at the total money spent on education in this province, the number of students, the vastness of the enterprise and the capabilities of the institute, I can't agree that that's an exorbitant amount of money, considering the fact that we have really substantially cut back the research part from, say, 1970.

Mr. Nixon: It went from \$11.7 million to \$13.1 million in one year.

Mr. Makarchuk: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we might discuss the miscellaneous grants to be paid at the direction of the minister. Earlier in the week, or during the past couple of weeks, the minister made a statement during the question period to the effect that there will be no denial of money on the part of the ministry to communities that need or feel they need schools, to ensure that they have the wherewithal to build these schools. Using the fact that you have allocated something like \$3,723,000 here, I was wondering if you have taken into consideration that in the city of Brantford you have two areas—one that needs schools as a result of an Ontario Housing development programme that's come on stream and has brought numerous families into the area; the other area is part of the city which is developing at a much faster rate than it has in the past.

I think I should bring to the minister's attention the fact that when these subdivision development projects were being considered by the municipality, it was assumed by the local board of education that normal funding would be available from the ministry to build the necessary schools in those areas. Because of your restraint programme at this time, the funding, according to the school boards, is not available. Consequently, there are serious problems developing in those two areas. One is the Mayfair area and the other is the Briar Park area.

I wonder if the minister would be able to tell us or give us some indication of what he intends to do? I'm sure he has similar prob-

lems developing in other communities in Ontario, but in particular, what does he intend to do in this case in Brantford?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I just might say, Mr. Chairman, I'm happy to answer the question now, but it really isn't under this vote. That programme is under the second part, the school business and finance section.

Mr. Makarchuk: Mr. Chairman, the point is that the other part is statutory grants, and obviously the minister is not prepared to deal with statutory grants. But in this case he has the discretionary power to allow or approve spending a certain amount of money. I would assume from that that he has the discretion to use the money in such areas for such purposes as he deems are wise. If that's the case, if he doesn't intend to spend the money on schooling, can he tell us what he intends to spend that money on?

Hon. Mr. Wells: If my friend means the \$464,000 under miscellaneous grants, no, these are grants to associations, groups and so forth, not for school construction. In fact, I would find that I wouldn't have the legal right to use any of that money for school construction.

I would be happy to tell you the status of those programmes in Brantford and where they fit into the process. I just want to make one point, that what I said in the House the other day wasn't that there would be money available for any community that needed school buildings. I think I said there would be money available for communities that needed school buildings because of the Housing Action Programme and new housing development subdivisions where the failure of a board to be able to get approval to build could cause that project not to be built. That's a little different.

There isn't enough money to provide funds for every community which wants to build a new school, for a variety of reasons; there isn't enough money this year to allow that. We're giving first and top priority to areas where new housing is being developed that could be stopped legally by a school board saying, "We can't provide the school accommodation"—and therefore the plan wouldn't get approved.

Mr. Makarchuk: Mr. Minister, the problem in this case is the fact that the approval for the housing development was given on the basis of the fact that normal funding would be available to the local school board to build schools in the area. When the mu-

nicipality gave the approval, the municipality was aware that schools would have to be built. The school board was under the impression, when they gave the approval to the plans for the subdivisions, that funding would be available. Now the subdivisions have been built and people have moved into the areas, and what we find is that you have refused, or you deny them the right to build the schools. That is what we want clarified.

In the first place, they went ahead in good faith to approve the subdivisions. The various municipal groups in the community approved the plans on the basis of what they expected to get, and the subdivisions were built. Now when everything has happened, they find out they cannot get the funds.

What I'm concerned about is, are you prepared to keep to that agreement that you made us at one time, or you had and still have with the various school boards, to provide the school rooms for the people who need them?

Hon. Mr. Wells: If you will give me the names of the areas, then I can get the complete data and I can give you a logical answer. Because it involves considering whether there are spaces in any schools nearby and just what is the situation in those areas. I just have no way of being able to give you an answer without knowing the areas and seeing what the situation is.

[9:15]

Mr. Makarchuk: The two areas are Briar Park School and Coronation School in Brantford. One is in the Mayfair area and the other one is in the Briar Park area.

This is not something, I presume, that I have raised, I am sure the officials from our school board have raised this matter with you and they have been told by your ministry that they cannot get funding.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I will get some answer on that and perhaps we will have it a little later when we get to the other section of the estimates.

Mr. Bullbrook: I want to relate back to what my colleague the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) referred to in connection with OISE.

I say it is a generalization, and I appreciate the fact that you will regard it as a generalization, but I think it was about seven years ago that the predecessor in your office decided that we would begin the Ontario

Institute of Studies in Education. I recall it to be a result that Mr. Davis went down to Berkeley, California, and saw the experience of their institute of studies in education; on the campus, by the way, of the University of California at Berkeley.

I regard that as significantly appropriate, because the former leader of this party, my colleague to whom I just referred, many times has spoken about the question of the validity of the non-integration of the institute itself into the academic life on the campus of a university itself; strangely enough, now to some extent supported by Mr. McKeough and Mr. Henderson in their report to the Legislature.

But I harken back to that seven years ago with a red-necked, almost Jimmy Carter attitude; if I can say that; and I am not a peanut farmer, believe me. But that attitude is this, that we—

Interjections.

Mr. Bullbrook: I'm sorry? I don't want to miss any good ones, there are so few in this Parliament, frankly.

Mr. Samis: It wasn't kind, James.

Mr. Bullbrook: It wasn't kind? Well, I am glad I missed it then. I probably wouldn't have had an appropriate retort anyway though.

Mr. Martel: Claire Hoy would have written an article about you.

Mr. Bullbrook: As a matter of fact, I want to tell you it is very appropriate that you mention the Claire Hoy article in the context of my remarks, because it is really—you sat there that night my colleague from Sudbury East, you sat there that night—and I'm not digressing unduly, because I want to say this to you: That very night, one of the things I said was, "It has never been essential to me to value an individual, politically or otherwise, on his grammatical construction," and it isn't.

And so what I talk about is somewhat irrelevant, because that is what I want to talk about tonight, I want to talk about the quality of education somewhat; and about OISE and what they are doing with respect to it.

Because it is about seven years ago, I think, we began OISE; and now, year after year, we see the expansion of remedial programmes, with respect to pre-entrance to post-secondary institutions in the Province of

Ontario. I want to say to you, as one individual parent in the Province of Ontario, it seems to be somewhat strange that the development of the need for remedial education in English and mathematics is almost concurrent with the esoteric development of curriculum and otherwise by the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education. I want to know just where are we going in the field of education?

My colleague from Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, talks about the fact that we spend one per cent of our gross national product in the Dominion of Canada, more than any other country in the world, on the development of education and we are prideful of that and nobody would ever shirk that responsibility or better that right as we see it.

But what is the return? Is there a member in this House who can't say to himself, as we put these estimates of the Ministry of Education, who cannot say to himself, I want to direct through the Chair, to the minister and to the minister's colleagues who sit here in the operation of the Ministry of Education, just where are we going? Because I am extremely interested, as a parent, in knowing where we are going.

I don't for the life of me, as I said in the context of the estimates of the Minister without Portfolio, believe that understanding what a subjective completion is makes my life full, whole or happy. I tell you this though, I kind of feel that we are depriving the children of something when they don't have the right to know what a subjective completion is. That is the essence of what I am saying.

I really, truly, feel that somewhere along the line, the field of education has developed itself into such a monstrous thing, that the 125 of us collectively, or any one of us individually, cannot propel a feeling, an essential feeling that many people in this province have: "Let's stop and have a look at it all." Because when my colleague, the former leader of this party, talks about the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, the response of the ministry is essentially this: Please do not denigrate them because they have to spend \$2,195,000 a year of public funds for rent.

Of course, the point is, my colleague didn't even attempt to do that. That's a fait accompli. We have attempted to bring this to the attention of the people of Ontario for many years, that disastrous involvement that took place with respect to the building of that edifice and the renting of that edifice to

house that particular operation. I don't think it is of that he spoke, nor do I wish to speak of it.

Mr. Nixon: Neither of us wants to speak about it.

Mr. Bullbrook: No. Then we get the response about a cloud over the Institute for Studies in Education, some of which is justified—the minister, of course, doesn't say what he considers to be justified—some of which is not justified. The minister, of course, does not say what he doesn't consider to be justified.

I would really like to get a response in that connection, because as one of his colleagues I want to say this to the minister. I would really like to know what involvement the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education has had with respect to the development of needed remedial programmes prior to the entrance into post-secondary education in the Province of Ontario. It is almost that one can say, unhappily so, that one of the outgrowths of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education has been the need for the development of remedial programmes.

You know, last night in the Toronto Star you read: "Schools Neglecting Basics, Ex-teacher Says." This is last night's Star. I asked for it to be brought down because I imagine those of us who are prone to reading the Toronto Star had to read the following:

"The basic skills are sadly lacking in today's schools, and showing enthusiasm for finger-painting is not an acceptable substitute," a former teacher said last night. Sheila Morrison, founder of Metro's Parent Action League, told a panel discussion sponsored by the Toronto Council of Home and School Associations, that despite massive spending on education, levels of achievement have declined sharply in the past few years. "The schools have taken on any number of activities, none of which we asked for," she said. "They are concerned about students' emotional needs, their social needs, and last of all, their educational needs. Discussions on family life, in most instances, are a euphemism for pornography in the classroom."

Now, maybe this lady goes too far in that respect, I don't know. She probably does. But I tell you—I won't read further, because I don't want to enlarge the debate unduly—it does exemplify the thinking of many people who are parents of post-secondary education students in the Province of Ontario.

Her remarks do convey a certain pith and substance as to our feeling as to where, really, education is going, and whether we are truly getting—not necessarily a dollar value, but an abdication on the part of the ministry, the profession perhaps, the trustees, and most of all ourselves, who appropriate the bulk of the funds on behalf of the taxpayers of Ontario—that perhaps we are not getting, not necessarily our money's worth, because that shouldn't be the criterion, but whether our children are getting a most fundamental and essential opportunity to be educated.

Those are the key words that I want to convey: Opportunity to be educated. Not necessarily the ability on their part to be so educated, or the acceptance on their part of such an education. But the expression of a degree of wonderment at least—especially in the context of, and let's put it in the hardware context, of spending \$2.1 million every year for rent, for in essence a research group to see in effect what has become an eroding of the quality of basic education in the Province of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me just very briefly say that I think that in my opening statement I was indicating what I saw as the directions that education in this province was going, and some of the concerns, some of the things that had to happen, some of the things I hoped would not happen and because our time is limited I will not repeat those.

I want to say to my friend that I can't help believing that the things which go on at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education are going to help solve some of the problems we face in education. There are 571 full-time students in the various programmes there; educational, post-graduate programmes. There are 1,626 part-time students and 1,313 summer students. All of these people will be going back into the system to transmit the kind of knowledge they got from their studies at the institute.

Also, as far as things actually happening in the school system are concerned they are taking the lead in developing some of the things which need to be done. Certainly, because they're the experts in this area they have helped develop some of the remedial programmes community colleges wish to offer to some students who've come in. The whole matter of remedial programmes is a very broad subject which we could deal with at some other time perhaps. Universities were offering remedial programmes for their first-year students back in the early 1900s.

They've always been doing that; it's not some great new phenomenon which has suddenly fallen out of the sky.

The institute has developed—let me give you one example—the forerunner of the programme in moral education in schools. It is presently forming the base of the kind of things going on in school boards all across this province, to encourage the development of programmes in moral and value education as part of the total curriculum. Clide Beck and others at the institute have been in the forefront of developing the books and material to be used in this particular area.

Some of the most outstanding people in the area of testing and evaluation are presently at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and they are playing a role in developing the kind of things we're looking at in regard to testing and evaluation in this province. They have already developed tests which can be used for student achievement testing and for evaluation—tests which are Canadian, Canadian-centred and Canadian-based, not adaptations of American tests a lot of which are on the market in this country today and are being used by school boards. Some of them are under Canadian names but really they are adaptations of American tests. This kind of thing is going on at OISE and all of it, I think, will be very helpful to the school system.

Mr. Bullbrook: I want to say this if I may: Insulting as it may be, I expected that type of response. It had nothing to do with what I said; it didn't even peripherally involve itself. Instead we got into Canadian content and moral education.

Hon. Mr. Wells: What did you want?

Mr. Bullbrook: I wanted you to talk about the basics of education. That's what I really wanted. I wanted you to respond to that lady who was talking about the basics of education. Let me say this to you: Do you think I don't know for a moment that remedial courses have been made available to people by universities since before the turn of the century? It had nothing to do—it was a generalized need. In effect, it was for people like my father who had not gone through the system, when they wanted to enter the post-secondary field that was what remedial education was for. The minister knows that full well. To try to tilt the windmill—it's an entirely different thing now.

Mr. Breithaupt: It's nothing like today's pattern at all.

Mr. Bullbrook: Your post-secondary people are telling you right now that the people coming out of your secondary system are not educated in basics, in English and mathematics. They're telling you this. Surely, you must say to yourself "What are we doing with these hundreds of millions of dollars if that is the situation?" To say that in effect the development, to begin with—the minister said, "The development in the community college programme of remedial education." I'm not talking about the community college programme. Surely to goodness, you realize that's minimal compared to the university programmes in remedial education? I'm talking about the essential ingredient of the quality of education and I'm not talking about Canadian content or moral reconstruction whatever that is.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Of course, my friend can get very exercised and he's good at doing that. He thinks he's before the Supreme Court of Canada or something, as he does on many occasions.

Mr. Bullbrook: Especially when I'm dealing with you.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me say that he did touch on some of the things I talked about and he alluded to the probability that there weren't some valuable things going on at OISE. Let me tell him, answering his question directly, I disagree with what Sheila Morrison has said. I think the basics are being taught in our schools. Sheila Morrison doesn't know that but she should know it, because the basics are being taught. And I can tell they're being taught when I look at my three kids and see what they're getting at school, and when I look at their friends who come to our house. But I can also tell that the basics are being taught in school when I visit the classrooms of this province and talk to the teachers of this province. And let me tell you, every time you side with the Sheila Morrisons, and you say that the basics—
[9:30]

Mr. Bullbrook: It's not so much a question of siding, and you should understand that.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —that the basics aren't being taught in this school, you can't divorce yourself from saying the teachers of this province aren't doing a good job and aren't concerned about what's going on. The basics are being taught.

Mr. Bullbrook: That's a beautiful Joe McCarthy trick.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The basics are being taught in our schools, we are emphasizing that, and the teaching profession of this province are doing a good job and they are suffering great—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —great distress because people like yourself and others continually get up and try and allude to the fact that the schools aren't doing a job and they aren't teaching the basics.

Mr. Nixon: The teachers don't report to you, you said that this afternoon.

Mr. Breithaupt: And the leadership is not coming from your ministry.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That is exactly what I said this afternoon.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: My friend is completely wrong. You read "At What Cost?", or anything. They say exactly what I said this afternoon. You see, you can get trapped into this whole business very easily. Everything's black and white. Nothing is black and white and, of course, everything isn't—

Mr. Bullbrook: You try to make it so.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Everything isn't perfect, but you try to make it—

Mr. Bullbrook: You try to make it as if—

Hon. Mr. Wells: You try to make it as if there are no basics being taught in the schools.

Mr. Bullbrook: Nobody said that at all.

Hon. Mr. Wells: And that the schools are doing a terrible, terrible job, which of course is not—

Mr. Bullbrook: Let me ask a question; would you permit one question now? Let me ask you one question. And I'm not even going to entertain a response to that business of, "When you attack basics you attack teachers"; because that's the oldest type of argument that's available to somebody who can't argue properly, that type of argument.

Why is there an expansion, in the post-secondary education process in the Province of Ontario, in at least three universities of which you're aware, in the remedial education programmes in English and mathematics?

Why has that taken place over the last five years, under your ministry? Why has it happened?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I'll tell you why it's taking place, because there are a lot more people getting into university today. There are a lot more people getting into university today, and the lower third are people who 10 or 12 years ago—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —under the kind of system you would have us bring in—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —wouldn't even get to university. That's why; they're getting a chance.

Mr. Lewis: That's right.

Hon. Mr. Wells: And let me tell you something.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: At Huron College, University of Western Ontario, the dean was telling a group the other day that in the years 1960-1967, roughly that period, when we had the grade 13 exams, of those accepted in university in the lower areas, with an average of 60 to 65 per cent on grade 13 exams being given at that time, 48 per cent passed their first year university. Since 1968 to 1975, he said those who had been admitted to university in the lower categories, with the 60 to 65 per cent based on the marks that the teachers gave under their own exam programmes in their own schools, 56 per cent have passed their first year of university.

Mr. Bullbrook: The standards have lessened, that's why.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You're saying the university standards have lessened?

Mr. Breithaupt: I would say so, too.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Listen, there's no way you can prove that. I'd be very interested—and it's too bad your hon. leader isn't here, because I hear he made some statements last night. I would really like to hear him explain to this House what he means by this statement in his press release:

Smith also attacked the school system for robbing the children of the disadvantaged

and immigrant families of their traditional route to success and assimilation.

Is that what you believe? Is that what you believe about the school system?

Mr. Lewis: What is that last phrase?

Hon. Mr. Wells: "Success and assimilation."

Mr. Lewis: "Success and assimilation"?

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's right.

Mr. Bullbrook: That's better than integration.

Hon. Mr. Wells: He also said:

In our schools today, a child can write an exam four or five times until he passes. There's no such thing as failure. Standards have gone out the window. Children aren't forced to learn anything unpleasant, such as multiplication tables or proper grammar. Let him come in here and prove that statement. Let him come in and prove it.

Mr. Bain: He is a living success.

Mr. Lewis: That is the most philistine thing to say.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The hon. member for Algoma.

Mr. Wildman: I just wanted to go back to what the member for Brantford asked about. Just in general terms, I'd like to know the role of the ministry in general planning as it affects development in small communities in the north. I would like to know whether or not the ministry budgets on the basis of what they consider to be probable development in small communities in the north, or whether that's left completely up to the local boards of education.

In other words, if a board of education agrees to development in a particular community, is it possible that they themselves, then, will find themselves in a bind for grant money to expand the schools in that area, or is there some role that the ministry plays in determining whether or not they agree to that development? I could give some examples but I'm just talking in general terms really.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Could you give an example?

Mr. Wildman: For instance, in an unorganized community north of the Soo, Aweres township, there has been a tremendous amount of development which has been okayed by other ministries of this govern-

ment—the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of the Environment—in some cases. In some cases, as a matter of fact, some of this development is illegal, but in many it has been agreed to by the ministries of this government.

Now, the Soo board of education finds itself in a position of having to provide schools for these children in these areas and they're not prepared for it. Aweres school, in a township north of the Soo, already has three or four portable classrooms and is facing possible further development in the area and they apparently can't afford to expand the school. As a matter of fact, they face a water and sewer problem at the school—not being able to provide even basic services of that type for the school.

In other areas—take Hornepayne, in the township of Wicksteed, for instance. There is a possibility of CN development in that area and I believe the ministry should have a more direct role in determining whether or not they agree to the expansion to the high school in that area, or what funds they're going to provide in that area.

I would just like to know the role of the ministry in okaying or not okaying development. What role they play with regard to consultation with the local boards of education in giving them advice as to what kind of grants they will obtain in the future.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It's very difficult to generalize on a question like that; it's much easier if you could give us the specific examples. I can then tell you exactly what should or should not or could have happened if it didn't happen and so forth. It's very hard to generalize in those areas.

If government itself was going in—if the Ontario government was causing some development to occur directly, and a ministry was putting up a facility that was going to cause a strain on the school, of course we would liaise and make sure that that board was taken care of. If there are things that have to be done because of health reasons, they get top priority.

Basically we try to work with the areas to develop the facilities, or to make the money available to the board for the facilities. But it isn't always quite as clear cut as that because we don't have a bottomless pit of money. Sometimes we have to study exactly what facilities are available and where the resources can be put.

It is hard to generalize about those things. If you've got some specific example, we can try and get you some answers.

Mr. Wildman: I can get specifics. If you take the Soo North example; development took place in that area. The area is under the control of the Ministry of Natural Resources. It's unorganized townships. Some of that development was authorized, some of it wasn't, but the point still remains that there is a school in the area which now has four portables, is facing possible further development if it's okayed by the local planning board and Natural Resources, the Ministry of the Environment, and the Ministry of Housing. I'd like to know what relationship you have with the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of the Environment when they decide whether or not they're going to approve a plan of subdivision. What role does the ministry have or is that left up to the local board of education?

What input do you have into agreeing or disagreeing with possible further development? Do you tell the board that they will have grants or they will not have grants for the expansion of a local school?

Hon. Mr. Wells: All the developments that go in for approval here go to the various ministries for their comments, and those comments go back. Basically, as I said, we have been saying to the Ministry of Housing and to the other ministries that if it's necessary that there be approval for a school for a housing subdivision to go ahead—if it's needed and there is no other way of providing those facilities—that's top priority at the present time. That's what we're operating under.

We also have to put the proviso in there that a fairly large embargo has been placed on the 1976 assignment of moneys until the summer, at which time we'll be allocating capital moneys to the school boards. We've held up some of it to give some of them a chance to rearrange their priorities, but we've tried to pick out the ones that were necessitated because of housing programmes and not hold those up.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Minister, I intended to bring this up a little later, but you made what I think is a rather remarkable statement to my colleague from Sarnia just a couple of minutes ago, and I would like your reaction. If I understood you correctly, you indicated that the remedial courses which are being set up by the universities were necessary because a lower quality of student was coming in. That's what I think I heard you say, that more students of lower quality are coming in.

Mr. Wildman: That's the way you put it; that's not the way he put it.

Mr. Sweeney: That is my understanding of what you said. I'd like to make two comments. First of all, my understanding is that at the present time there is somewhat less than 20 per cent of the population in universities. There is a total of something like 27 per cent or 28 per cent in all post-secondary institutions, according to the Minister of Colleges and Universities, but my understanding is that slightly less than 20 per cent of the population is at universities, even with the new figures. It's somewhat difficult, even for the minister, to say that 20 per cent of the population of this province do not have the intellectual equipment to go through the normal school system and come out with the normal kinds of academic expectations. That's the one point I'd like the minister to direct himself to.

Secondly, I have here a statement, which was delivered by P. D. Fleck, who is the president of the Association of Canadian University Teachers of English and, at the present time, is also the president of the Ontario College of Art. This statement was delivered about three weeks ago at the University of Waterloo.

Mr. Nixon: A very well connected chap, actually.

Mr. Sweeney: I would like to make the particular reference because I do think it applies to the minister's statement and I would like his reaction to it. He said, with respect to the kinds of courses we're talking about:

We do not use the term "remedial" to refer either to the remedying of special problems or of problems experienced by students whose native language is not English. We use the term to apply only to courses designed for students who have come through the normal educational system and who are deficient in the basic writing skills which that system ought normally to teach them.

Mr. Bullbrook: Oh, oh.

Mr. Nixon: That's pretty clear.

Mr. Sweeney: I don't think we're talking about the kind of students you're talking about, Mr. Minister. Would you react to that, please?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Certainly we're talking about the kind that I was talking about. The percentage of the total student population in university is greater now than it has ever been. We're not saying that the top 20

per cent of students from the secondary schools necessarily are going on to university; there's an opportunity for anyone to go on to university, and more than ever before are entering university. There are, of necessity I think, going to be more regular students who, in the eyes of those people in university, need some kind of remedial training. I suppose we might find people in industry who would say that people who come out of universities with BAs should be taking something else; they might wonder exactly what that BA had provided for that person.

Mr. Breithaupt: I'm sure there are.

[9:45]

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am sure there are. I am sure there are more people in university today who need some type of remedial programme because the universities are taking in a wider spectrum of people than they have ever taken in. That is the kind of answer that you will get from most of the university people.

You can take quotes from various people. They make quotes. I haven't read his whole speech so I don't know whether he talks about anything else in his speech which might relate to that particular quote but you can get quotes from all kinds of people. I don't know what it proves, though.

Mr. Nixon: He was the president of one of your post-secondary institutions.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let's get right down to brass tacks. What does it prove? Did you listen to my opening remarks?

Mr. Nixon: Yes. You said it should not be listened to.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I acknowledged that there are people who are criticizing. I acknowledged that there are problems in the system. I acknowledged that we are going to take some action. I also denied any blanket statement that there are no standards and no basics are being taught. It is not accurate and not true.

Having said that, what are we doing about the situation?

Mr. Bullbrook: Nobody said that.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We have an extensive study going on, by knowledgeable but impartial people called the interface study on colleges and universities and the secondary system. What we need is a little hard data, some real facts; not suppositions, ideas, personal opinions, comments based on some

students people have come into contact with and so forth. What we need is some hard facts. We are going to get them from the interface study and then we are going to correct the situation if there is a problem to be corrected.

Mr. Nixon: Six hundred thousand dollars that is costing this year.

Mr. Haggerty: There is nothing wrong with it.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Why keep arguing back and forth over whether this is right or whether it isn't? You will always find somebody who will claim kids today are no good. Kids today can't do this; kids today can't do that. You will find other people who will say they are terrific. The fact remains we really haven't got any real hard facts in a lot of these areas; we will get them out of this study.

Mr. Breithaupt: Will you get them from OISE?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Certainly, OISE will supply them all.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member for Kitchener-Wilmot would like to pursue his point of questioning.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Chairman, I would like to pursue it when we come to curriculum development. To follow the minister's own question, what we are trying to get at and what we will deal with again later on is that the present organization of the system is faulty and needs to be corrected. That's what we are trying to get at. That's the point.

Hon. Mr. Wells: What do you mean by that?

Mr. Sweeney: The way in which the system in this province is set up now enables a fairly significant number of students to go through who are not adequately prepared for the kinds of skills they need. That is the point we are going to deal with.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You don't have any proof of that.

Mr. Sweeney: We will come to that.

Mr. Bullbrook: Yes, just for a moment; I appreciate your indulgence. I want to put something on the record to be responded to by a statement from a minister of the Crown. To say some of the kids today are no good or some of the kids today are good—nobody even inferred that. Nobody in their wildest imagination brought it down to the quality of

the kids today. We are talking about the quality of education; we are trying to do something for the kids today.

I want to put this on the record, as I understand it. In response to my words with respect to the development of remedial programmes in post-secondary institutions in the Province of Ontario, the minister replied "It wasn't as a result of the needs of those who are going through the mainstream of the elementary and secondary system," that's exactly what he said. It was those people outside that system primarily who needed the remedial assistance.

Hon. Mr. Wells: With respect, I didn't say that at all. That's nonsense; where did I say that? I said the remedial programmes were needed because there was a larger group of students going on to university and that the bottom third of those students who had the opportunity today to go to university were, by and large, the ones for whom the remedial programme was needed. That's what I said.

Mr. Breithaupt: They were not being prepared.

Mr. Bullbrook: I am not going to carry it any further because the fact of the matter is every time you try to make a valid point with the minister, he completely subverts it and deals with something else. The fact is Dr. Fleck, in his comments there, unequivocally said the need for the remedial programmes results from the lack of basic education of those people going through the system which this minister and his predecessor developed.

Mr. Ferris: I would just ask a question of the minister. He just mentioned the interface study that is going on, and it came up to me that in the administration of this testing that it is my understanding, and perhaps the minister would give some further details, that the schools are being tested on a purely voluntary basis, and that actually once they have accepted this, times are set for the examinations or the testing to be done but there is no compulsion on the part of the students that they have to take it. So there could be a reasonable skewering develop if it is not properly controlled.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I happen to believe it is being done by competent researchers; the selections and sample will be proper and it will provide us with a valid piece of research.

Mr. Ferris: The voluntary aspect doesn't present any problem to you?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I don't know; I mean I am not an expert in research but I have to believe that the researchers we hire must know that they are doing it in a way that can be substantiated as valid proper research that will stand up to scrutiny. That's the direction they have been given.

Mr. Nixon: But you say OISE was doing this.

Mr. Chairman: Shall item 2 carry? Carried.

Items 3 to 10, inclusive, carried.

Vote 2901 agreed to.

On vote 2902:

Mr. Chairman: Educational development and administration programme. Item 1, programme administration. Carried.

On item 2, curriculum development.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, just before you get carried away completely.

Mr. Chairman: I will recognize the member for Oakwood unless the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has a point of privilege.

Mr. Nixon: I thought you were looking right at me all that time when all these people on your left were saying "carried"; I thought they wanted to vote the whole \$2 billion.

Mr. Chairman: We are down to vote 2902, item 2, and the hon. member for Oakwood indicated—

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Does the member for Oakwood have something to say about vote 2902, item 2?

Mr. Nixon: He's got a scripted speech which will take until sign-off.

Mr. Grande: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: You have the floor.

Mr. Grande: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The votes were going so quickly I thought I would almost miss it.

An hon. member: Yes; I thought I would too.

I am glad the Minister of Education did quote the statement that the leader of the

Liberal Party made the other day, yesterday or the day before—

Mr. Nixon: One of those days.

Mr. Grande: I would also like to quote it, because it strikes me as almost an 18th century kind of a statement.

Mr. Lewis: And that's flattering.

Mr. Grande: You know, back in the early—

Mr. Breithaupt: The NDP believe the more water you add to the gravy the more gravy you get.

Mr. Grande: —in the early 1800s when immigrants started to come to this land, some of the educators said: "What do you want to do with these immigrants?" The only job of education is to try to make them Canadians or to try to make them Americans. Dispel all the qualities, their language, their particular customs that they brought to this land and make them American, Americanize them.

Here it developed the concept of the melting pot.

Mr. Nixon: They used to call it melting, we believe in mosaic.

Mr. Grande: And now the Liberal Party, in 1976, calls it assimilation of the immigrants.

Mr. Chairman, as the leader of my party said, that's saying it mildly, but I think that those people on the other side are really back in the 1800s as far as education in this province is concerned.

I want to talk exactly on that particular point and I would like to ask the Minister of Education some questions in regard. If he remembers, back in November of 1975 when these education estimates were on last year, at that particular time, in response to a speech that I made, if I recall correctly the minister did say that transitional bilingual education classes were allowed in the educational system. I think I am not misquoting him. Soon after that, I placed a question on the order paper, and that particular question was answered on March 29 by the Minister of Culture and Recreation. This is what he said—it is an exact quote—"offer transitional language programmes in which children are taught their total school programme initially in their mother tongue. English being gradually introduced . . ."

The first question: Is the Minister of Education in agreement with this statement made by the Minister of Culture and Rec-

reation? In other words, is the Minister of Education accepting the General Mercer model as a way of integrating the new Canadian children and as a way of teaching them English?

Hon. Mr. Wells: The answer is yes.

Mr. Grande: Okay. Great.

Mr. Ferris: What does that mean?

Mr. Grande: I am really extremely pleased that you do say that, because in the past you have not agreed to that, and I am glad that you have finally seen the light.

Since you accept that, would you be kind enough to make sure, in your next issue of the publication *Dimensions*, that the school boards and the teachers of the province are knowledgeable of that particular policy? The school boards and trustees that I talk to always say to me that it is the Minister of Education who prevents these programmes from being started in the schools. Just make it simple: Put the policy down and say yes, finally, the Minister of Education wants these kinds of classes to go on.

Mr. Martel: And will fund them.

Mr. Grande: And, as a matter of fact, that the Ministry of Education will encourage these classes to go on.

Ms. Gigantes: And pay for them. That's what he is saying.

Mr. Grande: We'll come to that point in a minute.

Mr. Martel: I was afraid you might forget about it and leave that to us.

Mr. Grande: That is where the real difficulty lies in terms of getting these programmes under way. As long as they remain just a policy of the minister—and I fully accept what he said a few minutes ago, that it is a policy—unless the funds go to the boards of education, nothing will take place. You may have quite a lot of different kinds of policies, but the boards of education are just not moving in that direction.

Earlier in your speech you mentioned that this particular year it is in that kind of direction that you want to move. You mentioned multiculturalism as a matter of fact. If the word multiculturalism has true meaning to you, which is dissimilar or completely 180 deg from the thinking of the Liberal Party, then it seems to me you have to encourage it and you have to say to the school boards, "Get on with it. It's long overdue." And the funds have to follow because as you

usually are prone to say, unless the funds flow nothing will take place.

You know, strangely enough, I agree with you on one point that you made earlier this evening: that is, that it is not money that produces good education. We know that. Back in the 1960s, the United States, spent millions of dollars on compensatory education, but after five, six years or 10 years of those particular programmes, they found out that actually it made very little difference in terms of upgrading—what was the term they used, “upgrading the child from this particular level to a higher level.” There’s a value judgement there that all the children have to be brought to a particular level, to compensate, as a matter of fact for their deficiencies, for their disabilities and disadvantages.

[10:00]

Now on this particular policy, as I said before, I agree completely with you. This particular policy will begin to say, for the very first time, that those linguistic skills those children have, those cultural experiences those children have, are going to be taken into account in a very serious way in the educational system; and that’s what good education is all about.

Could you give us some assurances that now that you have the policies, the funds are going to go to the particular boards? It doesn’t have to be a lot of money, just enough money so that the board will have an incentive, as you want to put it, to go ahead with these kinds of programmes.

Would you like to answer that now?

Hon. Mr. Wells: As I said, certainly it’s our policy, and I accept what you said about an article in *Dimensions*. If these estimates had been in another month or two from now, we would have had that already done.

As my friend knows, we are in the last stages of preparing our statements on the whole area of multiculturalism in education. It isn’t quite ready yet for these estimates, but it will be ready shortly and it will have in it these statements that we are talking about, particularly this one about the transitional use of the mother tongue.

I have to say that in our studies it hasn’t been particularly brought to our attention that boards need extra money to carry out this programme. The Toronto board has made presentations to us to get more money from the federal government, basically, saying that because of the total responsibility they have in this area they think that they should have some more money, but we haven’t really had

any cost identifications of exactly what more money would be available.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, if I could pursue it for just a few more minutes, I realize the time constraints once again.

So you are saying that in a few months, as soon as your multicultural report is available—I assume you are talking about the internal committee on multiculturalism—as soon as that committee comes out with a report, which by the way was supposed to be ready six months ago, you said that in the estimates last year. You said that at the end of the year we are going to have that report and now we are in May and that report is still not around and you are talking about another two months. Anyway, let’s leave that aside.

In other words, am I to understand that in that report, which is going to be written up in two months time, you are going to be supplying funds to the boards of education to encourage them to move in this direction of bilingual education?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I don’t think that you can assume that at all. As I said, I can’t tell you what kind of funding might be available or might not be available, that just hasn’t been decided at this point in time.

I am just saying that I don’t think that perhaps one of the major problems is particularly funding. A lot of the boards have said to us, those which have expressed concern about whether they could use this kind of transitional language programme, that really their concern has been whether they could use it not that they needed extra money to do it. A lot of the boards, I think, could accommodate it within their present programmes. Now that we will have to find out, but I can’t give you an answer on that at this point in time.

Ms. Gigantes: You have to put money into it.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, I don’t think it’s proper to change the subject if other members want to continue on that particular matter, and I want to talk about educational television.

However, I do want also to say something about the topic which the hon. member has introduced, because I feel that it’s very important, that the position of our leader and this party not be represented by taking a couple of words out of a press release and going around—

Mr. Foulds: Read the whole press release.

Mr. Nixon: All right, all right. I'll tell you, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Foulds: Read that whole reactionary press release into the record.

Mr. Nixon: —that there is absolutely no apology from this particular party. Our position has been clear that we believe in the education of the people of this province. There ought to be ready access to a wide variety of educational background material. We have said repeatedly, that the poetry of Taras Shevchenko ought to form a part—

Mr. Foulds: That is not what Stuart Smith said.

Mr. Nixon: —of the curriculum for those people who should have the opportunity of pursuing at least the literature aspect of their education in the Ukrainian language.

Mr. Lewis: Do you believe that?

Mr. Nixon: There is not a thing wrong with that. And I will tell you, sir, that those who attempt to smear the whole party with that sort of an attitude are certainly irresponsible on their part.

Ms. Gigantes: You disowned him.

Mr. Chairman: Order please. The hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has the floor.

Mr. Foulds: Wait a minute. The member for Oakwood is not finished.

Mr. Nixon: Now, long before the hon. gentleman at the end of the row here who has introduced this subject—and an important one it is—there has been debate in this House on the necessity for upgrading the education system to meet the needs of all sorts of cultural groups within this community. We have certainly indicated clearly our support for any initiative the Ministry of Education or the various boards of education across this province would take, so I certainly want to be sure, Mr. Chairman, that the record shows that our position in that is abundantly clear.

Mr. Chairman: Does the hon. member for Oakwood want to pursue the question of multiculturalism?

Mr. Grande: Yes, I want to continue for a few more minutes. But what the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has been saying is nothing new in the sense that the members

of the Liberal Party always disagree with their leaders.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: I don't disagree with it. Immigration in this country is based on Liberal policies and surely you have heard what the leader of the Liberal Party has said, even in Vancouver the last couple of days. I haven't heard any ringing pronouncements from the leader of the NDP about that.

Mr. Chairman: Will the hon. member for Oakwood confine his remarks to curriculum development, which is item 2 of vote 2902?

Mr. Nixon: No, I haven't heard Broadbent calling for an expansion of immigration.

Mr. Grande: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The second area I want to touch on, is the area of ESL, English as a second language.

Mr. Foulds: What's wrong with you and Cunningham now?

Mr. Nixon: He is appealing to the UAW mentality.

Mr. Foulds: What is wrong with the UAW mentality?

Mr. Nixon: Keep 'em out, keep 'em out!

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Will the hon. member for Oakwood please proceed and ignore the interjections?

Mr. Grande: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, but I'm not being allowed to ignore them.

Mr. Chairman: You have the floor.

Mr. Nixon: Go ahead, try.

Mr. Grande: I would like to ask a few questions on ESL, English as a second language. I understand that in the past two or three months, Dr. Fisher from your ministry has been negotiating an agreement with the federal government for somewhere around \$12 million that would come from the federal government to the provincial government for English as a second language.

Now my sense, if it is correct, is that throughout Metropolitan Toronto at least, boards are cutting back in this area. As a matter of fact, a couple of particular schools, schools that have two or three English-as-a-second-language classes, now find themselves with one and one teacher.

I just can't understand that at the same time you're negotiating an agreement with the federal government for \$12 million for

ESL and previously you had somewhere around \$6 million or \$7 million, teachers of ESL are going into other fields? Would you please explain what is going on here?

Hon. Mr. Wells: First of all, we're negotiating with the federal government but at this point in time we haven't got anywhere. That's the first point.

You're saying that teachers of English as a second language are leaving that field and going into other fields or else boards are switching them out of that area?

Mr. Grande: Yes, that's right, because of lack of funds. And that's not the only area where that is happening. I would also like to comment on the area of special education which really seems to be in a turmoil at this particular point.

Okay, perhaps you can look for that information and I'll go on to the third area.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I hear those statements being made but if we had any specific instances it would be easier to look into them. It's very easy to say teachers of English as a second language are leaving those programmes and going to other programmes or boards are switching them but do you know where and how many and what boards is it happening in?

We have 198 enrolled in the English as a second language summer course this year. Last year it was 128 so these people must feel it is desirable to take that course. While I have heard this in some certain areas I haven't seen any concrete examples.

If you can tell me that in Toronto they are taking teachers of English as a second language and putting them in other programmes or doing away with them perhaps we can find out why that's happened. We have to remember that a lot of these decisions are the decisions of the local boards.

They know how much money they are going to get and if that is how they choose to handle their financial affairs, that's the price of local autonomy. I may not approve of it; you don't approve of it, but what are we to do? Tell them, "That is all the money you have but with this money you must not touch this programme or this programme"?

Mr. Grande: I would suggest to you that once you have this agreement between yourselves and the federal government—

Hon. Mr. Wells: There is no guarantee we will get that. That's a very iffy thing. We feel there should be an agreement there and we are negotiating. That is what is happen-

ing now but we haven't had any particular indication that we are going to be successful. We think there is a basis there for them to give money for these programmes but we have had no indication it will be successful.

Mr. Grande: Okay, let us assume that perhaps you won't be getting any more than you got last year which, I believe, was around \$6 million. When you do get that amount of money would you think carefully of this particular suggestion: That is rather than pumping that money, in the case of Metropolitan Toronto, through the Metro board and then the Metro board allocating teachers of English as a second language to the different boards of education, would you go the direct route according to the needs of those particular boards?

If the minister is thinking, I can go on to some other questions in that particular field.

Mr. Chairman: The minister cannot reply until you relinquish the floor.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The matter of what we will do if we get this money, I think, will have to wait until we see if we get the money. At the present time I am not aware that we are getting any money from Ottawa for teaching English as a second language to children.

As far as I know, all the money goes to the programme that the Ministry of Culture and Recreation operates on English as a second language for adults, which is operated outside the school system by its own group of people. It's some night school but it is not part of this programme.

What we are doing is actually negotiating with the federal government and saying, "You give money for teaching English as a second language to adults; we think this programme should be expanded into teaching children." That's the kind of case we have been making there. As I say, I can give you no guarantee that we are going to meet with any successes. If we do, we will then have to work out how that can be handled.

Basically I support the premise my friend is putting forward. I think we have to give emphasis to this. This is all part of the total policy and the total picture that goes into the total package concerned with multicultural education. We have to be concerned with transitional languages, with English as a second language and with a third language or a second language other than English or French as a subject. They're all part of the package that we're working

together to develop into a policy, that I'm sorry is going to be a little late, but better late than never.

[10:15]

Mr. Grande: Ten years later you will still be saying, "better late than never."

Okay, so it seems that in this area, ESL, there isn't very much that you can say or that you know.

Ms. Gigantes: You won't put the money out.

Mr. Grande: The incredible thing I find is that when I talked to Dr. Fisher a few months ago—and I'm sorry, I tried to follow it up but I haven't been able to get in touch with Dr. Fisher—he was giving me the impression they were just about the end of those negotiations. They had been having negotiations with Ottawa and they were about to be coming to the end of those negotiations and the funds allocated to English as a second language were going to be substantially increased. However, I suppose in the next estimates we shall find out what has happened in that area.

The third area I want to talk about, and again I have several questions here, is the area of that third language which you just finished mentioning, third language courses or classes within the elementary public school system. I find it, really, very intriguing and strange, that when the Toronto Board of Education—

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me just answer those earlier remarks; I don't like to leave any loose ends.

Dr. Fisher, who's sitting here now, informed me that at the time that he was talking to you—

Mr. Foulds: He just came in now.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —he was indicating to you that we were at the point of drawing up a draft agreement and he had believed that we were practically on the verge of getting that agreement signed. For some reason or other, since that time there has been no enthusiasm, I gather, up in Ottawa, to proceed with that draft agreement. It's just completely held up. So what he told you then was accurate but since that time it's been held up and Ottawa has not shown any interest in it. We're attempting to get it revitalized up there, but they haven't shown any interest in wanting to continue.

As I say we got to a point, and when you were talking to Dr. Fisher he had the

draft agreement drawn up that we were going to present to Ottawa, have both of us sign it and hopefully move ahead; but it is stalled.

Mr. Grande: I guess perhaps it's a case of cutbacks and restraint, just like you're doing in the province for the boards of education.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Probably that's it.

Mr. Grande: Yes, it's more than likely so.

Then let's get on into the third area, and very quickly because other people will want to speak tonight. The third area is the area of third language classes for students in the elementary schools in the public school system.

As I was saying, I find it very strange that the Toronto Board of Education comes and asks for your permission to institute Greek and Chinese programmes at Orde and Jackman public Schools. You give permission for the bilingual and bicultural programmes, then for some reason—I suppose lack of money, the board did not give any money to these programmes—the programmes died; but at the same time, while the board of education comes to you to ask your permission for those classes, classes in 13 or 14 different schools within the separate school system are already teaching 30 or 40 minutes of the third language in their classrooms.

Are the separate school boards under your jurisdiction or are they not? Why does one board have to get the okay to go ahead and the other board doesn't? I don't understand. Could you clarify that?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think the programme in the separate school boards is ostensibly, as you state, a third language programme, but it is a programme in the same sense that Ukrainian, Greek and other programmes are taught after school in public schools in Toronto and Scarborough and other places. It is an add-on, third language programme that is provided for the students in separate schools. That's the rationale under which the separate school board began.

Mr. Grande: But my question is, did they need your permission to begin to do these kinds of programmes? Did you give them permission to do it?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, they didn't need permission, because it is an add-on programme. It is not within the regular five hours; it is an extra-curricular programme. Now, the sepa-

rate school board has strayed from the traditional concept of having the five-hour day, and then adding the programme at the end. It is integrated, in some cases, into the school programme. But when we asked them, they assured us that they had five hours of school as well as that programme.

So, the answer to your question is, no, they didn't ask us. They went ahead with those programmes. We are looking at the programmes now, but we don't object to teaching of a third language in the manner that I have said. As long as it is added on to the curriculum at the end of the regular day, or if they integrate it in some way, but still the five-hour restrictions of our regulations are adhered to—five hours of the regular elementary school programme.

Mr. Grande: Am I to understand that this is becoming another policy of your ministry; that as long as the third language programme is added on, or an add-on programme, you allow it to go ahead? So the York Board of Education, the Toronto Board of Education, the North York Board of Education could initiate these classes as add-on to the regular programme?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, it is being done. It is being done on an extra-curricular basis at the present time, and it could be done. That, again, is part of this total package we are going to present and study and we are looking at.

There are other things that concern us about what's happening in the Metropolitan Toronto Separate School Board; and that's being looked at also. They concern me very much. I want to know whether the teachers who are teaching those programmes are Ontario-qualified teachers, or not. That is a concern that we at least have to look at, and that's what we are looking at—who's providing those teachers to the school board for that programme, and things like that.

Mr. Nixon: I just want to speak briefly to the minister about the educational television authority. It was discussed, of course, under the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, since the financing of the programme is shared among, I guess, more than two ministries.

I feel it is somebody's duty to bring to your attention, Mr. Chairman, on all of these issues, the recommendation of the McKeough commission on special programmes—the one that the minister calls the Henderson commission.

The committee, chaired by the Treasurer, indicated very clearly what they felt should

occur with educational television—I suppose in the short run, because we all hope that we can return to the palmy days which we have experienced over the last decade when money didn't seem to be any object.

But we gather that educational television is being funded in excess of \$18 million this year. The recommendation that interested me from the McKeough commission calls for the programming responsibility to be returned directly to the Ministry of Education. As a matter of fact, it seems sensible that that be so, Mr. Chairman, since it is educational television, and since we do already have a public network that serves all of the communities in Canada.

I believe it would be very advantageous, particularly for northern Ontario, to have another outlet for television programming, which educational television has really become.

The references are to the interesting programmes which, unfortunately, can't be seen in all parts of the province, which are made up of top shows, such as "The Education of Mike McManus," or the classic movies shown on "Magic Shadows," with discussions, and so on. All of them are extremely valuable and, I point out to you, Mr. Chairman, very expensive.

As I said this afternoon, I suppose I do sound like a Conservative in that I do believe that the expenditure for an additional public network is unnecessary. The one justification for educational television is that it be an aid and adjunct to the education in our school system. This is the way it was conceived when it came about. I believe that, much to the detriment of the taxpayers, we have got away from this rather dramatically.

Mr. Foulds: Forget about adult education.

Mr. Nixon: The adult education that the gentlemen are talking about, as they interject, is undoubtedly interesting. As I pointed out, I would certainly look forward to seeing my friend Judy LaMarsh interview my other friend, Joey Smallwood; it would be educational and I know you would agree, Mr. Chairman, that it would be bound to be entertaining.

Mr. Breithaupt: And certainly adult.

Mr. Nixon: But as adult education of the type that is going to produce anything near a return on the payment of close to \$20 million, I submit to you, Mr. Chairman, that educational television is anything but a resounding success. I am not criticizing the management of educational television, as I

and others have done in the past—and I hesitate to mention this, because the minister responds so strongly—but once again we are paying a great deal of rent for a facility that is handled by another one of those great corporations that in the past have done so much business with the Ministry of Education. I am not sure whether it is Trans-america, Crescent Corp. or whatever one it is—It is the same one, I believe, that owns OISE—

Mr. Foulds: Didn't your leader get up on a point of privilege this afternoon and—

Mr. Nixon: —but I do believe that educational television—has come along very much as one of the sacred cows in this ministry and that its education budget has grown out of control. I, for one, agree with the McKeough commission recommendation that it can have a real function in the school for educational purposes. I do not believe that we can have French-language education in many of the parts of this province except through adequately programmed educational television. We have discussed this in the past, but I do not think that we should go through the approval of this expenditure without drawing to the attention of anybody who will listen—and there may not be anybody here; obviously the minister is concerned about it, but he is not taking any action—that the recommendations of the McKeough commission are specific. They have been discussed here before; they call for a substantial cut-back in that budget, so that the direction of the programming is for more formal education purposes, rather than being construed simply as a mandate, taken aside from education, for the development of a whole new education system for public programming in the province.

I personally feel that we have to give this some further consideration, and once again I would ask the minister for his comments.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, knowing my friend's interest in television, I am sorry that both he and I—well, I guess I am not sorry; we have to be here and this is where we should be, but my friend Bill Davis is interviewing Anthony Davis and Betty Kennedy on television tonight.

Mr. Nixon: Betty Kennedy signed the report that said this should not be done.

Hon. Mr. Wells: He may ask her about that—

Mr. Breithaupt: She should ask them and they could both get fees.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —but, I guess showing that wonders will never cease, the Premier of Ontario is sitting in while Morty Shulman is on vacation or something from his show and taking Morty's place on channel 79.

Mr. Nixon: He was complaining about his indemnity last week.

Mr. Breithaupt: It's like the Loblaw's ad, you know—price following pride.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me just say that the \$7,588,000 in these estimates for the Ontario Educational Communications Authority is for the sole use of developing and maintaining programming for the elementary and secondary schools as an aid to the curriculum in this province. We feel that we have a high degree of accountability and control over how that money is spent.

I have made the point many times with people from OECA, just as my friend has done, that the money in this budget is not for the open sector part of the programme; that's the responsibility of another ministry and another vote. This money is to provide service of an educational television nature to augment the curriculum in the elementary and secondary schools. It is doing that. About \$5 million is for programme production and acquisition; \$751,000 for the VIPs programme; \$436,000 for utilization, workshops and activities to help teachers be able to use the programmes that are available.

The money represents a certain percentage of the cost of channel 19 and so forth, but I can assure you it is all for educational use and for producing curriculum aids for the school system. That is what this money is here for and, just as you have said, we believe there should be a high degree of accountability to us to make sure that's what this money is being used for. That's the way I feel about it and I feel that we've been getting that through the kind of co-operation and the kind of liaison we have with OECA.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall item 2 carry?

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Sweeney: I move the adjournment of the debate, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I think the acting House leader should move the committee rise and report.

Hon. Mr. Wells: moved the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed, Mr. Deputy Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of supply begs to report it has reached certain resolutions and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow morning we will continue, or recontinue, with the budget debate.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Friday, June 4, 1976

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1976

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Before we start the proceedings of the House, members will recall that, instigated I believe by the hon. member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell), a card was signed last week by many of the members, sending get-well wishes to our Sergeant at Arms, Major Soame. This was delivered by our Clerk of the House personally and a note of thanks has been returned from Mrs. Soame appreciating the gesture very much.

I haven't anything to report about the condition of Major Soame other than that his condition, I believe, is stable.

Statements by the ministry.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY BARGAINING COMMISSION REPORT

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time this morning, I'll be tabling the report of the construction industry bargaining commission.

This commission, the House will recall, was appointed in December, 1974, pursuant to section 34 of the Labour Relations Act, to examine bargaining in the construction industry in Ontario and to suggest methods for reducing the number of bargaining situations. Subsequently, briefs were presented to the inquiry commission and in January of this year a number of public hearings were held throughout the province.

The report recommends modification of the Labour Relations Act to permit province-wide bargaining by trade, together with the development of co-ordinated bargaining by employer associations. The recommendations would require that for the core of industrial and commercial construction the only allowable collective agreements would be those which were province-wide and which covered an entire trade. In addition, the report recommends the introduction of devices to co-ordinate bargaining by the various employer associations.

Before a determination can be made concerning implementation, a number of details, both substantive and technical, must be further explored. Accordingly the inquiry commission has been authorized to make a detailed implementation assessment of these questions in consultation with those affected.

INCREASE IN TILE DRAINAGE FUNDS

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to the members that the government of Ontario is increasing the funds allocated to the drainage programme by \$3.8 million. This will bring our total involvement this fiscal year to \$16.8 million.

Under this programme, the province, through debenture arrangements with local municipalities, assists the individual farmer to drain his land and thus improve his productivity and income. The programme provides farmers with 10-year loans for up to 75 per cent of the cost of installing drainage tile. The farmer pays six per cent interest on this loan and the province makes up the difference between that six per cent and the market rate which varies from time to time.

This programme has been well received, as is demonstrated by the fact that more than \$40 million is out in 10-year loans at this time. The success of this programme is clearly demonstrated by the significant gains in agricultural productivity which are partly attributable to improved drainage.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES' NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I have a range of bits and pieces. Could I ask first the Minister of Labour, is there ever going to be any progress in the Haliburton-Kawartha-Pine Ridge public health nurses' predicament?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the situation vis-à-vis public health nurses and

boards of health is not limited to Kawartha-Pine Ridge-Haliburton. It is much more widespread than that.

We are having ongoing meetings with public health units and with the Association of Boards of Health in an attempt to persuade that group that it would be wise to resume negotiations or to permit the dispute to go to voluntary arbitration. We have thus far not been successful in this activity but that has not lessened our enthusiasm for the task before us nor our optimism regarding the possible solution.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary if I may. I am glad the minister has optimism. Is it possible for the minister to bring the representatives of the Ontario Nurses' Association and the Association of Boards of Health together in her own office and indicate her personal dissatisfaction, as the Minister of Labour, at the horsing around of the boards of health and their refusal to come to good faith bargaining? Must we have so many people abused in the province as the public health nurses are being by boards which will not bargain in good faith?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the boards of health, I know, are aware of our concern regarding this. If it is possible to achieve such a meeting, that's one of the directions we have been attempting to pursue. We are making every effort to try to bring both parties together.

Mr. S. Smith: With regard to the Pine Ridge-Haliburton area, the minister will recall my question of some time ago regarding the Ontario appointee on that board who voted for the lockout; does the minister have an answer to the question as to whether any action will be taken to replace that person on the board?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am not as yet aware whether that single appointee member of the board was present at the time that vote was taken. That is something we have been attempting to ascertain. But that individual is one member only of a multi-member board which voted for this rather strange action. We've also been attempting to find out the reason for such activity on their part.

HURONIA REGIONAL CENTRE

Mr. Lewis: A question, if I may, to the Minister of Community and Social Services. Can he indicate to the House what the terms

of reference are for the inquiry he has requested at the Huronia Regional Centre for the retarded, and will he indicate whether the inquiry, to be conducted, I believe, by a Dr. Willard, will have at least part of its hearing in public?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Firstly, the terms of reference are very broad indeed. I wanted someone to go into Huronia who was objective, knowledgeable and experienced, and I feel that Dr. Willard certainly has the kind of credentials that are necessary. I have asked him to look into not only the physical plant but programming, staffing, the area of supervision, so that it's hoped he can make recommendations to me within the month.

If there is anyone who feels that he or she has something to add, then I am sure that Dr. Willard would be happy to call them and do what he can. In other words, I want to make it as broad as possible, because I am anxious to make whatever improvements will be necessary. We have been doing something, as the members of the House may know, in terms of depopulating the area and so on.

The intention was not to have a public inquiry as such, with formal hearings and people parading ad infinitum, because frankly I don't think that would serve too much use. But if there are any members who wish to communicate with Dr. Willard, I am sure that he would be happy to hear from them.

Mr. McClellan: By way of supplementary, may we have an assurance from the minister that the report will be tabled upon its completion? I ask this because of the pretty intense public interest in the matter being investigated.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I would truly hope so, because I think we are all working together to try to improve the environment there. It's not a question of politics; it's a matter of doing what we can so that any input that anyone can give, of course, would be appreciated.

Mr. S. Smith: Is the doctor who is looking into this matter empowered also to look into the rest of the mental retardation system, and not just at Huronia? Is he entitled to look at such possibilities as including a ward which could be considered a class A facility under the Mental Health Act, for instance, or an arrangement with a nearby mental hospital to declare a certain ward of this facility as class A?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I should have added, when I was asked by the Leader of the

Opposition, that of course the terms would allow a recommendation, if that was thought necessary, in connection with a unit or an area where persons could be confined. That is part and parcel of it. We haven't experienced similar difficulties or the same high public profile in the other institutions as we have in Orillia. I am anxious to deal with Orillia first. There are ongoing improvements that are being made in the other institutions, and I think we can be guided by this particular report.

COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENCES

Mr. Lewis: A question to the Chairman of Cabinet, if I may. Is the minister aware of the very strong feelings and protests of the Whitefish band, that they have been given—frankly, I am not sure of the exact number—somewhere between one and four commercial fishing licences on which 20 families or more in the band are dependent for their livelihood, giving to them something like \$500 or \$600 a year in income, while they believe a large number of licences have been handed out disproportionately to whites fishing commercially in the Lake of the Woods area? Is the minister aware of it and can he investigate to see whether the anxiety and the injustice they claim is, in fact, valid?

[10:15]

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, no, I'm not aware of it, and I'll be pleased to investigate and to report to the hon. member.

Mr. Lewis: I want to ask a supplementary about that: Since this is a long-standing complaint, having been raised with the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) a year ago, and then more recently in a formal way, are these not things brought to the minister's attention in the normal course of events as areas of outstanding difficulty with native people, since that is his portfolio?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, that one has not been brought to my attention. As I just told the hon. member, I'll investigate and be pleased to assist.

Mr. Lewis: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Another question?

FATAL ACCIDENT AT LA SALLE

Mr. Lewis: A question, if I may, to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Is he aware that a little three-year-old girl was killed a couple of weeks ago in a

fatality in the township of Sandwich West, I believe, on Highway 18, which becomes Front Rd. in the village of La Salle? Can he respond to the repeated requests of the township and the residents that a stop light be placed in the village of La Salle, since there appears to have been a repeated and frequent number of accidents?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I'll certainly look into the matter. I don't recall any repeated requests to me from the village of La Salle, Mr. Speaker. There may have been previously, I can't say. I do get copies of all accident reports daily from the provincial police. I don't recall that specific unfortunate case, but I'll certainly look into it and re-assess the need for a stop light at that location.

Mr. Burr: Supplementary: Would the minister take into consideration the fact that between Amherstburg and Windsor there is a stretch of about 20 miles, and that some kind of device is necessary to slow the traffic down, because it just zooms through La Salle? The minister will find that we have made many requests about this in the past.

Hon. Mr. Snow: As I say, Mr. Speaker, I don't doubt that previous requests have been made, but I don't recall any in my term of office. However, I will look into it. I will say that we do get requests for additional traffic signals on a daily basis from areas all over the province. We deal with each one individually, and assess the traffic conditions, the construction of a particular intersection—and, based on all the information available, make the decision at that time.

Mr. Speaker: Further questions?

Mr. Lewis: I think that's all, unless the House leader (Mr. Welch) or the Chairman of Management Board is in the precincts of the House.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT CLAIMS FUND

Mr. Lewis: Let me ask, as he is approaching his seat, if the Chairman of Management Board will raise with his cabinet colleagues the extraordinary jury judgement handed down I think, late yesterday in Hamilton, providing an award of \$349,000? I think it is the largest award of its kind ever registered, and was for a very unhappy accident involving an injury to a Marisa Zorzitto, with a driver who was insured under the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act—

Mr. Nixon: He is not insured.

Mr. Lewis: I'm sorry, who is uninsured under the Act and therefore is seeking redress from the fund, whose maximum, I believe, is \$50,000? It is possible to use this case as an example of the need to change the rules of the unsatisfied judgement fund or, better still, to take another look at the way the government handles automobile insurance in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, I will pass that along to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman), who deals with the fund. I really couldn't give any comment myself, because I'm not familiar now with the details.

MINIMUM DRINKING AGE

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Premier. I'll give him a moment to settle himself. Can he confirm the article which appeared in the West Hill News on June 3, in which the MPP for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) is alleged to have told a Conservative Party luncheon, "very soon the provincial government will be raising the drinking minimum age"? Can the Premier confirm or deny that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm or deny that.

Mr. S. Smith: As a supplementary, are we to take it that the hon. member for Scarborough Centre has information that the rest of the House does not have?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, Mr. Speaker, I think it is quite conceivable the hon. member may have a point of view which, if I read the press reports accurately, is not shared by the member for Hamilton West. I am just saying he may have a point of view.

Mr. Nixon: He is the parliamentary assistant; isn't he in a position to speak on policy?

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary: Can the Premier perhaps censure or discipline the member for Scarborough Centre for flying kites in this brazen and illegitimate fashion?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would only say—

Mr. Reid: That is the parliamentary assistant flying kites.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —the member performs his responsibilities extremely well. I have noticed the odd kite being flown by the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Ziemba) which I sense is not totally consistent with

that of his leader. Perhaps his leader has brought the member for High Park-Swansea into line by saying to him that he doesn't agree with him in terms of the drinking age; but I am only assuming that.

Mr. Lewis: You don't agree with that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, I am not—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hamilton West, further questions?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I wouldn't assume—

Mr. Samis: You don't disagree with it?

RETAIL SALES TAX ON MOTEL ROOM SUPPLIES

Mr. S. Smith: A question for the Minister of Revenue: In view of the Ontario Motel Association members' objection to remitting tax on certain items supplied to their customers, can the minister explain why a businessman running a restaurant is not obliged to pay tax on paper serviettes and the like, supplied to his customers but the same man must remit tax on facial tissues and other such items provided to the same customer in his motel or hotel room?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, when this matter first came to my attention, it was in the form of the report that certain of these people had been advised that they should not pay tax on future purchases of such articles for use in their motels. I observed that I had received no submission whatever from them and I am not familiar with the nature of their claim.

I understand they have had some discussions with the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) but unless or until I hear their arguments and see why they are putting forward this position, I think I would prefer to not make any other comment. I do invite them to make a submission to me and I have indicated that if they would like to tell me what the nature of their complaint is, I will look into it.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary: Does it not strike the minister as a case of double taxation when a small motel owner—or a large one for that matter—is providing services and certain items for a customer in the room and the customer pays sales tax on the rent for his accommodation and services?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, in the case of taxation at the retail level, tax is applied to the consumer, the ultimate user of the product, and in this case it is our interpretation that it is the motel owner. He is the

consumer. In that case he is paying tax as a consumer like anyone else.

Of course, in the whole milieu of manufacturing or the provision of any kind of services where articles are consumed in the delivery of a service, with the service itself being subsequently taxable, there may well be many stages through the process, whether one is talking about a manufactured article or whether he is talking about the delivery of accommodation in a motel.

There is nothing inconsistent with there being tax calculated upon a tax and other markups in the line, ultimately developing the final price of the article or commodity being sold or rented. It is not unusual to see a multiplicity of taxes applied at various stages through a process ultimately arriving at a retail sales tax applied to the commodity at the end of the line.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary: Would the minister not agree that it is unusual—in fact, a situation to be corrected—if the retail sales tax is being applied over and over again on the same item, rather than a combination of other things?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should ask a supplementary question instead of debating. Thank you.

Mr. S. Smith: I understood the minister, Mr. Speaker, to say as part of his answer, that it is not unusual that taxes are piled one on the other.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A supplementary question is supposed to be for seeking further information. If the member has one, he should please continue with that question but not debate the matter.

Mr. Eaton: Don't get mad.

Interjections.

Mr. Bain: Use the interrogatory.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Hamilton West.

Mr. S. Smith: As a supplementary question, does the minister know of many instances in Ontario, now that he brings this matter to light and illuminates us, where the retail sales tax of Ontario is applied over and over again on the same item and piled up, eventually showing up in the final price? That is the question.

Hon. Mr. Meen: No, it is not the question. The point is that in the course of the production of a finished product many other articles

may well be consumed. As those articles are consumed in the process of the creation of the ultimate product that comes to the marketplace, then the manufacturer pays retail sales tax on those consumed articles as they go through in the process. At the end, retail sales tax is charged on the end product. I think the hon. member might get himself a little briefing on the basic principles of the Retail Sales Tax Act.

Mr. Nixon: You are wrong.

Mr. S. Smith: We will in fact get a briefing, Mr. Speaker. I would love to see these motel owners who are the final consumers of the tissues. We must have the cleanest motel owners in the world in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am sure they have. They are a great industry.

CONFERENCE ON LEUKEMIA AMONG RUBBER WORKERS

Mr. S. Smith: A question to the Minister of Labour. Inasmuch as the minister was acting Minister of Health and this matter has to do with industrial health, has she received the information from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health regarding—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We can't hear the member.

Mr. S. Smith: —the conference held on April 30, on leukemia among synthetic rubber workers? If she hasn't received this information yet, I can certainly pass it over to her. I have it with me.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the only thing I have seen regarding that meeting is a précis which was published in the Industrial Health Journal. I haven't seen the complete proceedings of the meeting as yet.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, is it the intention of the government as far, as the minister knows, to convene a similar conference to the one that was held in the United States, since we do have synthetic rubber plants here and since a high incidence of leukemia would be a very dreadful tragedy to occur? Is the ministry carrying out a survey among our rubber workers to determine whether or not there is a high incidence of leukemia here?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I think that the Minister of Health would probably have to answer the latter question, but I know this matter

is being referred to the advisory committee on occupational health of the Ministry of Health and will be looked at by that committee.

Mr. Speaker: Any further questions?

Mr. Lewis: Ask a question of the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells).

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Minister of Labour has the answer to a question first of all, that was asked previously.

SUSPENSION OF STELCO WORKER

Hon. B. Stephenson: Thank you Mr. Speaker. On June 1, my hon. colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) asked a question regarding the suspension of a Stelco worker who objected to working in a situation which he considered to be unsafe.

I have investigated this matter and should like to report to the House that the worker was a crane operator at Stelco who objected to operating a crane which had apparently discharged a part of its load two or three days before that. His objection was raised on April 26. He said he did not want to operate the crane; he felt it to be in an unsafe condition. He had a long discussion with his supervisor regarding it. The supervisor then stated that he would make sure that no one would be injured because he would clear the area completely at that time when the crane was being operated.

The operator then stated he did not wish to operate it because there might be an injury to himself if he operated it. He was apparently reassured that this would not be a possibility.

[10:30]

His third objection was that if he operated the crane and something did fall, he would be responsible for the damage to the truck. His supervisor indicated that the management would take full responsibility and that in fact the crane would be inspected and, if necessary, repaired. The operator then declined to operate the crane at all under those conditions and was suspended for the remainder of his shift.

The following day he contacted the Ministry of Labour, apparently after having had a very long discussion about this matter with his union. He decided, however, not to request the service of his union on his behalf in this situation but to make the complaint as an individual.

An investigation followed by the industrial safety branch of the Ministry of Labour and,

in fact, no directions were issued. The crane grabs were said to be approximately 10 per cent deficient, with a small possibility of slippage. Those grabs have been replaced.

There has been a meeting between the ministry and union officials, and between the ministry and the individual operator himself, and there has been a complete investigation at Stelco.

The final complaint, which was raised about four days after the incident and which was not raised by anyone at the time, was the possibility that there would be damage to oxygen pipes going through the area if slippage occurred. That complaint was found to be of no substantial nature since the pipes are apparently covered with 4-in.-thick pallets where they are exposed, and in most instances they are not exposed at all.

This situation apparently has been clarified completely to the satisfaction of the industrial safety branch of the ministry, that indeed there was not a hazard at that time, there was certainly no breach of the Industrial Safety Act and there was no contravention of the Act on the part of the company.

Mr. Mackenzie: It should be pointed out to the minister that the replacing of those dogs—and when you are lifting a 60-ton slab of steel—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is there a supplementary question?

Mr. Mackenzie: —it could have been done in 45 minutes. If they were replaced, why was it not done at the time?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Bounsall: He asked it.

Mr. Mackenzie: Why were they not replaced at the time—a 45-minute operation—rather than run the risks of the job?

Mr. Speaker: Is there an answer?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I have no idea why they weren't replaced right at that moment, except that I gather it was not possible to do so.

EFFECT OF FLUORESCENT LIGHT ON FOOD

Mr. Burr: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Premier, regarding the inadequate packaging of various food products, especially milk, when displayed for sale under fluorescent lights in food stores. The question is: Has his government any concern about the loss

of nutritional value that results from exposure of milk and other food to fluorescent lighting?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure we have a concern. I must confess I don't have a great deal of knowledge—

Mr. Peterson: That won't prevent you from talking about it. Go ahead.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I want to point out to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) and the leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. S. Smith), that my milk comes in three-gallon returnable containers. My compost heap is also working, I want to point that out; it's functioning very well.

Mr. Shore: I hear you passed all the tests.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will discuss this with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) and the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) and try to get a more specific answer for the hon. member.

Mr. Burr: Inasmuch as this is the fifth time I've asked this question—

Mr. Nixon: I thought it was the ninth time.

An hon. member: Did the Premier say three gallons?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'm sorry. Three quarts, not three gallons.

Mr. Samis: That shows how much milk you drink.

An hon. member: That's what your scotch comes in.

Mr. Burr: —does the Premier think he could develop sufficient concern by 10:30 next Tuesday evening?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I recognize the hon. member's very genuine concern and certainly I will try to have a more definitive answer for him before 10:30 next Tuesday evening. If, by chance, there isn't a more definitive answer that satisfies the hon. member, I'm sure that all of us would be quite prepared to listen to what points of view he might have at that particular hour for five minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Next question?

FARM INCOME STABILIZATION PLAN

Mr. McKessock: I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. In the statement yesterday with the proposed income stabilization plan, he stated, "Our programme is thus designed to embrace all commodities for which no federal support is available"—and would the minister explain this part: "except in those cases where prices established by marketing boards are higher than the stabilization support level"?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to explain that to the hon. member. In the federal bill in Ottawa they left a loophole and we have to plug it, so we brought our legislation forward.

Mr. Nixon: Sounds like another loophole.

Hon. W. Newman: What I'd really like to tell the hon. member is this, that when the stabilization price—which will be worked out on a formula basis—is higher than the cost of production, then there would be no payouts. To give an example, for instance, if corn is \$5 a bushel for five years and is dropped to \$4 a bushel, and the stabilized price is \$4.50 a bushel and the cost of producing that bushel of corn was \$3, then there would be no payout. Does that explain it to the hon. member?

Mr. McKessock: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: It explains it except for the fact that the minister said that products under the stabilization plan wouldn't be covered in the bill.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I said in my statement—and I thought I made it quite clear—that those commodities which would come under Bill C-50, which is the national Agricultural Stabilization Act, would not be covered by this bill. I made that very clear. I also said the commodities under supply management, or those who set quotas and also set prices, would not come under this bill at this point in time. That's exactly what I said.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: Two years in a row, the farmers get no protection.

Hon. W. Newman: The leader of the NDP doesn't know a thing about farming. Why doesn't he sit down and be quiet? Why doesn't he learn a little bit about agriculture instead—

Mr. Lewis: Did you hear what the federation said yesterday?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker; would you bring the minister under control?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Housing has the answer to a question asked previously.

MALVERN H.O.M.E. PROGRAMME

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, on June 1 the hon. member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) asked if I would "inform the House of the market value assigned to lots leased to home buyers under the HOME programme at Malvern."

The hon. members will recall that prior to the summer of 1973, buyers under the HOME plan leased lots for a period of 50 years with the provision that these lots could be purchased any time after the fifth anniversary of the lease, at the market value stated in the lease. This market value was established just prior to the lots being offered to the public.

However, by the summer of 1973, land values were escalating rapidly, leading to criticism that HOME purchasers were making windfall profits. As a result, the land lease was amended to read that the land could be purchased any time between the fifth and 50th anniversary of the lease, but that the price would be the market value at the time the option to purchase was exercised.

Because of this change there was no further need for Ontario Housing Corp. to establish formal market values for lots at the time of marketing to the public.

Last August, the HOME plan land policy was changed from leasehold to freehold. At the same time, the owners of houses on leased lots were given the right to exercise their option to purchase their land.

Following this decision, opinions on the market values for the affected Malvern lots were obtained from independent appraisers, Central Mortgage and Housing Corp., and the chief appraiser of OHC.

Letters were sent to HOME owners last fall advising them of the market value of their lots. Following a series of discussions, there was a re-examination and by March of this year, those who had purchased a home in Malvern in 1973 or 1974 were again provided with the market value of their lot.

For the information of the members, the market values established are as follows: de-

tached lots, \$32,000 to \$35,000; semi-detached lots, \$26,000; townhouse lots, \$22,000.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Mr. Martel: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. Based on the recent study which indicated that converter workers had an incidence of chronic bronchitis of 22 per cent, while the refinery workers had an incidence of chronic bronchitis of only seven per cent, has the Minister of Labour indicated to the Workmen's Compensation Board that benefits should be granted to those employees of the converter plants who suffer from chronic bronchitis?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the report of the study has most certainly been referred to the Workmen's Compensation Board for investigation and deliberation. We have had discussions regarding the report and its contents.

One of the most interesting portions of its contents is the tremendous increase in the incidence of chronic bronchitis and other chest diseases in both groups related to cigarette smoking on the job. One of the things, I suppose, that one has to consider is, if benefits are directed to workers in either of the areas, whether those benefits will be related to whether or not the worker does smoke cigarettes.

The Workmen's Compensation Board is examining the report at the moment. I hope that, in the near future when it is making recommendations about a number of other things, we will have some recommendation regarding that as well.

Mr. Martel: A supplementary: Is it not a fact that the study indicates that about a third would be normal—about a third would be due to cigarette smoking—of those suffering chronic bronchitis but there is a third which is very questionable and the minister simply can't hang her hat on the smoking as a way of getting around paying compensation benefits?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, there is an increased incidence in one group over the other group probably—and I say probably because the evidence points in that direction—as a result of the site of their occupation. This is something which has to be considered most seriously by the Workmen's Compensation Board. That is precisely what we are doing.

WELFARE PAYMENTS TO LOTTERY WINNERS

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services. Why would the minister depreciate or diminish an individual's disabled person's allowance if he won \$1,000 in a Wintario lottery? Apparently, according to the ministry, the individual is taken off the DPA until the time he has used up the \$1,000.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I have heard some rumours to that effect, that there was a windfall in connection with a particular recipient. May I say that our programmes are needs tested. I gather there was some question some time ago about another case in which \$100,000 was won. I would think it would depend on—

Mr. Shore: Answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —the amount of money. I would think it would be dependent upon the amount of money that came into the hands of the winner—

Mr. Shore: He asked you a \$1,000 question.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —and his assets prior to that windfall. If the member could give me the particulars of the case, I will have it reviewed—

Mr. Shore: A thousand dollars?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —to see whether or not it affects the situation. If it is a small amount of money I would think it insignificant because what we would be doing, of course, would be inviting the person to spend that small amount of money immediately so that he would qualify. What we would surely do would be to take the sensible approach, as we always do in these matters.

Mr. Shore: Answer his question.

Mr. Reid: I don't know how he could afford to buy a ticket in the first place.

Mr. B. Newman: Is the minister aware that by taking the individual off family benefits allowance for winning \$1,000 he is really confiscating the \$1,000?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No. First of all, I am not aware that the individual has been taken off family benefits. If the member could give me the particulars, the name and so on, I would be happy to check it but at first blush it doesn't—

Ms. Bryden: We gave you the particulars a week ago.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —look too sensible to me, with someone who has come into a very small win that could be disposed of very quickly, to go through the process of taking him off family benefits only to put him on again.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask a supplementary? Why is the minister digging himself into a position today which will heap appropriate public abuse on him yet again? Why can't he be gracious enough to say when this amount of money falls into the hands of a person who is on a disability allowance, we will allow it as an additional payment, for heaven's sake. What's wrong with him?

Mr. Moffatt: Because that makes sense.

Mr. Lewis: Why is he being so punitive about it for heaven's sake?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If that is a question, Mr. Speaker, may I respond that I look at each individual matter very closely to ensure that the right thing is done.

Mr. Martel: It costs you more to look them up.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All I have is what the member has said about this matter.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Rumours.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I don't address myself to rumours or information members have given me in an offhand way.

[10:45]

Mr. Foulds: Is that intelligent information?

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: Would the minister not agree that while it is necessary to look at each case individually and while he is to be applauded for that, this points out the unnecessarily severe restrictions which his department puts on the assets which people are allowed to have in order to continue to receive family benefits. Would he not accept that's really the question?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think what it points out is that we have to draw the line somewhere.

Mr. Shore: Just answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In one case there's \$100,000 involved. In this case, from what the member says, \$1,000 is involved. We have these very hard cases which we have

to look at individually. I said we would take the sensible approach.

Mr. Shore: What is it?

Mr. Makarchuk: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: No, that was the final supplementary.

Mr. Makarchuk: In view of the fact that the possible winnings are indirectly complicated—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is this a supplementary?

Mr. Makarchuk: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: I announced the other as a final supplementary.

Mr. Shore: We are not getting any answers.

Mr. Speaker: I'm sorry. I thought it was a new question.

Mr. Makarchuk: Is there no supplementary to this, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: No, it's the same question asked over and over. We're wasting the time of the question period.

PAYMENTS TO WELFARE RECIPIENTS

Mr. Mackenzie: To the Minister of Community and Social Services: Is the minister in agreement with the very tough interpretation of the new welfare regulations given to advocacy groups at a meeting yesterday in Hamilton, which simply states that a wife or children, even in need, will not be a factor when a person who has either been fired or quit his job and has no other income applies for welfare? In other words, there will be no welfare granted even if there are small children and a wife involved?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Is the member asking me whether I accept that categorically as the position—

Mr. Mackenzie: Is the minister in agreement with that interpretation which was given to some 25 people in advocacy groups yesterday afternoon?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I'm not familiar with the statement but it doesn't ring clear nor true to me.

Mr. Mackenzie: Would the minister be prepared to give us a proper interpretation of a situation such as this? If not, is his office big

enough to start handling the people who are going to arrive there?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Very simply, general welfare assistance is administered at the local level through the municipal welfare administrators and we have a lot of competent welfare administrators in this province. If any of them require any assistance in terms of interpretation then the facilities of my office are available for that.

Mr. Martel: You make the regulations.

Mr. McClellan: A supplementary: May I simply ask the minister to investigate the situation in Hamilton and report back to this House on how the minister's directives are being interpreted by the Hamilton welfare office?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If the member can give me the precise situation I will address myself to that situation—if he sets it down for me.

GAINS CONFERENCE

Mr. R. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the same minister. Since the minister has taken the stand that Ontario will not support the proposals of the federal government in regard to income supplementation, did he take part in any other discussions at that conference, and were there proposals also made by the federal government to fund volunteer social agencies in the different municipalities across the province on a shared basis with the province?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: For the member's information, Mr. Speaker, there were three basic matters considered. One, of course, dealt with the new proposed Social Services Act, which covers the broad spectrum of social services which will be cost-shared; there's really a fortification of those services now.

The other aspect was income support and supplementation which is income security. The other aspect was the Canada Pension Plan. I'm not certain what particular information the member requires. If he could further define it, I would be happy to answer him.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Was there not a proposal made by which the minister and the federal government would share the costing of social delivery agencies which operate now on a volunteer basis without any assistance from either level of government? I can't make it any clearer than that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Then the member may have difficulty because the agreement be-

tween the province and the federal government and the funding is at that level.

Mr. R. S. Smith: That's what I asked.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Most of the social services are delivered through agencies which have agreements with municipalities and we fund the municipalities.

PORTRAYAL OF VIOLENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier: Since at least three-quarters of a million dollars has probably been spent already on the royal commission on violence in the communications industry—otherwise known as the LaMarsh commission—and since the commission is largely duplicating earlier studies, including one done for the Ontario government, and largely deals with areas outside provincial jurisdiction, is it not time that the government asks this useless commission to complete its report and puts a veto on the proposed travels to Europe and other parts of the world?

Mr. Nixon: They're already there.

Mr. Kerrio: Do you have a space programme?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am interested in the question and in the manner in which it was raised by the hon. member. I could take a great deal of time in replying to it. I have to say this, I was very encouraged yesterday in the position being taken by the president of CFTO and the head, I guess, of CTV of Canada, who said in a public announcement yesterday that partially because of the LaMarsh commission, the concerns being expressed to the commission and, I assume, to him and many others, as to the amount of violence in the media, they have made a policy decision that no programmes containing violence will be shown prior to 9 o'clock p.m. In fact, they've extended this even to the—what is it—the Saturday night movies. They have said that if the film contains violence it will not start at the usual hour, it will start at 9 p.m.

I think it was also interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that one of the very major advertisers—Colgate or whoever it was—with a fairly substantial budget, has recognized there is a concern—which the hon. member perhaps does not share and I'm very surprised and disappointed that she doesn't—

Mr. Yakabuski: Aw.

An hon. member: Shame. Shame.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —which once again, I think, is as a result of the public interest. The member can be critical of Miss LaMarsh and her colleagues but there is no question—

Mrs. Campbell: We are not critical.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —that that commission has succeeded in creating a degree of public interest so that those people who are involved and have responsible positions in the media—

Mr. Reid: Especially in their salaries.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —are now doing something about it.

Mr. Nixon: Nonsense. Nonsense.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, there have been other studies, I will acknowledge this, but not by the government of this province. There have been studies conducted in the United States. Nothing has happened as a result of those studies. More has happened in this province which I think will have implication in the United States with respect to violence in the media because of the LaMarsh commission—

Mr. Peterson: As leader, you will get another medal.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —than anywhere else on this continent or elsewhere.

Mr. S. Smith: Because Johnny Bassett is going to move his programmes an hour later? Big deal.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member may disagree with Miss LaMarsh and her colleagues going to Europe, except I should point out to the hon. member—and I'm sure she studied it herself very carefully and is totally knowledgeable in this subject—that they have in some European jurisdictions developed policies whereby the degree of violence in the media—

Mr. Reid: Especially Poland and Hungary.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —is not as great as it is here in North America. If the hon. member is saying that she is totally satisfied, that she believes that there is no impact by the media in terms of the acceptance of violence in our society—

Mr. Nixon: We're totally satisfied your commission is wasting money.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —then that's fine. I happen to fundamentally disagree.

An hon. member: Time. Time.

Hon. Mr. Davis: While one can perhaps quarrel with some aspects of the commission the fact remains, and it's beginning to emerge now, I think, in a very public way, that people who have some responsibility—

Mr. S. Smith: That has nothing to do with the commission and you know it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —are reacting to it and, as a result, certainly for younger people, there will be less exposure to violence in the media than has been the case in the past.

Mr. S. Smith: Sanctimonious nonsense.

Mr. Peterson: That is ridiculous. If they are not to hear obscenities, don't give that speech on television.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If you like violence—

Mr. Nixon: I would like to do violence.

Mr. Speaker: Petitions.

Mr. G. I. Miller: I have a petition, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Community and Social Services. The petition is signed by members of the Association of Family and Children's Services of Norfolk and other concerned citizens. These petitions represent the concern for the restraints imposed on social services, especially the Children's Aid Societies, by the provincial government.

I also have another petition, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) and it's in regard to the seatbelt legislation. It does not necessarily refer to the concern for the use of seatbelts, but the concern of the legislation making it mandatory.

Mr. Speaker: Presenting reports.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the second annual report of the Ontario Advisory Council on Multi-Culturalism. I would like to acknowledge the presence in the Speaker's gallery of Dr. George Korey, who is assuming the chairmanship of this particular advisory council.

Hon. B. Stephenson presented the report of the industrial inquiry commission into bar-

gaining patterns in the construction industry in Ontario.

Mr. Moffatt, from the standing administration of justice committee, reported the following resolution:

Resolved: That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977:

Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Ministry administration programme	\$ 2,545,000
Commercial standards programme	11,752,000
Technical standards programme	5,718,000
Public entertainment standards programme	7,002,000
Property rights programme	15,304,000
Registrar general programme	2,232,000
Liquor licence programme	5,792,000
Rent review programme	13,985,000

Resolution concurred in.

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Introduction of bills.

ANSWER TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I wish to table the answer to question 112 standing on the notice paper. (See appendix, page 3000.)

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The first order, resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Sudbury East.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Hold it, wait until I leave.

Mr. Martel: The other evening I had just started my remarks. There was some comment about the socialists by the previous

speaker and I wanted to put on the record the comments of Norman Webster on—

Mr. Peterson: What riding is he from? Is he a new member here?

Mr. Martel: —the one of two provincial governments that had a surplus in their budgeting for this coming year. It was the “socialist hordes” from Saskatchewan who are showing a surplus and not a \$2-billion deficit as is the case in Ontario. For my friend from Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. McCague), I hope he takes note that it isn’t the Tory Province of Ontario, with all its largesse, that has a surplus, but we have a very large deficit created by his friends as they tried to buy themselves back into power.

I also want to read from a publication of one of the industrial companies, “Motorways Miler,” from Saskatchewan. Let me tell members what the sales manager says:

It is always pleasant to be the bearer of good news. Over the past several years it has been generally difficult to come up with cheerful observations about Canada’s economy, unless you happen to be talking about Saskatchewan.

At the present, this prairie province, which has had more than its share of tough going in the hard times of the past, is enjoying the third year of boom, which seems to be showing no signs of slowing down. In Regina, building and investment are at an all-time high. Business has never been better and the city is launching into a massive downtown redevelopment scheme that will see hundreds of acres of old railyards and badly deteriorated real estate converted into spanking new business complexes.

I am sorry to see my friend leave. He was the one that gave us all this claptrap the other night and now he leaves.

An hon. member: He is going to the Ku Klux Klan meeting.

[11:00]

Mr. Martel: That’s unfortunate. The other comment I want to make for the member for Dufferin-Simcoe, just before I get into the main remarks, is about the self-righteous platitudes that I heard, again from the member from Dufferin-Simcoe, the other evening about my colleague from Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy), followed none other than by the Premier (Mr. Davis) and by the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton) about some money-grubbing members of the Legislature. I just want to

chart what’s happened in those Tory back benches so the press will get the significance of their self-righteous hypocrisy.

Mr. Grossman: Not me; I’m not getting any extra.

Mr. Martel: I am going to come to you, Larry, and your two select committees in a moment—not one, but two for you.

Mr. Grossman: Renwick is on three.

Mr. Martel: Let’s take a look at it. The member for Prescott and Russell (Mr. Belanger) is on a select committee; he also gets extra remuneration as a whip.

Mr. Peterson: I don’t get any. Can you help me out?

Mr. Martel: I am not trying to help anyone. I am just trying to show the hypocrisy of those people. For example, we have the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory), who puts out a newsletter to his constituency on what the select committee is discussing. We have got none other than the Premier making comments. We have also got the member for Kingston and the Islands making some comments. And the member who spoke the other night, whose remarks prompted me to reply, has only served on two select committees in the past eight months. “Self-righteous money-grubbing individuals who take it via the back door.”

The member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) is on a select committee. He is also a parliamentary assistant. So we are talking about \$5,000-plus. The member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane), who is on his second select committee in eight months, is also one of the government whips, so he picks up two or three grand for that as well.

Talk about hypocrisy: The member for Stormont-Dundas-Glenarry (Mr. Villeneuve), chairman of a committee, also is on a select committee. The member for Oriole (Mr. Williams)—remember, he was the fellow who raised the question and started it all—is on a select committee and chairman of a committee. The member for Mississauga East, who was on a select committee, now has changed to yet another select committee where he’s chairman. That’s the composition of the Tory party on one select committee.

Let’s look at the next one, the select committee on highway safety. The member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. Johnson), who’s just on that select committee, got short-changed. The chief government whip is on that select committee; he also picks up five grand, by the way, via the back-door route

as the chief government whip, so he gets it two ways. I want to ask the question, of course, when I come to the end of this, but I am wondering if those parliamentary assistants, when they are serving as members of a select committee, lose their salary as parliamentary assistants, because they can't be doing double duty.

Mr. Grossman: They work twice as hard.

Mr. Martel: They do?

Mr. Eaton: You want to believe it.

Mr. Martel: They do that from long distance, and then they do the regular member's work—32 hours a day, eight days a week.

Mr. Grossman: Gives your candidates a chance to work in the riding.

Mr. Martel: The member for Parry Sound (Mr. Maeck) also serves on that select committee, the second one, and gets \$5,000-plus. The member for Dufferin-Simcoe, the man who spoke so glibly the other night, served on a select committee on Hydro and is now going to serve on a select committee on highway safety. What a money-grubbing way of doing it, eh? And then you have got the audacity, you self-righteous hypocrites, to get up and be critical.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member use a little more parliamentary language?

Mr. Martel: Self-righteous is pretty parliamentary. Hypocritical, if it is factual—what do you want me to say? He's the one who brought it up.

Mr. Peterson: Weasel.

Mr. McCague: Who promotes select committees?

Mr. Martel: Let's continue down the list—

Mr. Lewis: You could say, "feeding at the public trough."

Mr. Martel: Yes, that's right. Pardon me, he's not self-righteous. He's not hypocritical. He's just feeding at the public trough.

Mr. Peterson: I hope you deal with the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) before I leave. I want to hear what you say about him.

Mr. Martel: The member for Kingston and the Islands, who has made some rather slanderous remarks about it, is a new boy, a one-tripper, who is a parliamentary assistant and

on a select committee already. That's not bad for picking it up, is it? And the self-righteous indignation, of course, always comes to the fore. That's the second select committee.

Mr. Grossman: He is single.

Mr. Mackenzie: He doesn't have the expenses either.

Mr. Martel: Let's go down to the third one, company law. The member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick is on his second select committee in eight months. Third? Pardon me! They are really ripping it off! But they do well, don't they? They get around.

Mr. Peterson: He has to support his dad these days.

Mr. Martel: The member for York North (Mr. Hodgson)—he is a parliamentary assistant and serves on select committees. The trough is big, isn't it, for the Tories?

Mr. Speaker: I must apologize but the member for Simcoe East does exactly the same thing.

Mr. Peterson: Shame, shame.

Mr. Eaton: Rule him out of order.

Mr. Martel: He occupies the chair as the Acting Speaker, and at the same time he's on a select committee. Now, we also have—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Thank you for speaking with such reverence.

Mr. Martel: I apologize.

The member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakubski) is a parliamentary assistant and he is also serving on a select committee. My, oh my. Then we go down to Hydro where some of them were before. Who was there? The member for Algoma-Manitoulin? Yes. The member for Dufferin-Simcoe was there as well at the trough. Another parliamentary assistant is the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman) and he gets five grand, plus. And the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick was there, too.

Mr. Grossman: What about your House leader?

Mr. Martel: Can you imagine? And, finally the new boy on our select committee. I also happen to be a member of a select committee. But the member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton) picks up five grand as a parliamentary assistant. He is also feeding at the trough on select committees. And they are all so self-righteous.

My colleague documented very carefully what was going on in the other sectors. All the self-righteous Tories, one at a time, led by the Premier, got up and were critical of the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy).

Mr. Lewis: You are making a good point.

Mr. Swart: Is there a single one who doesn't get the extras?

Mr. Martel: There isn't a single guy over there who doesn't get it via the back door. They are the phoniest, the most hypocritical group I know.

Mr. Grossman: Is a select committee the back door?

Mr. Martel: They should take their self-righteousness and go and purge their souls somewhere.

Interjection.

Mr. Martel: Damned hypocrites!

Mr. Lewis: The fact is that they all make several thousand dollars above the average, and then criticize members on this side for talking of salaries.

Mr. Martel: Hypocrites.

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Sudbury East has the floor.

Mr. Martel: I just wanted to put that on the record, because the member for Dufferin-Simcoe shot his face off about it again the other night. And via two select committees in eight months he picks up \$2,000 or \$3,000 or \$4,000—and it's disturbing, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: And the member for Middlesex comes to one meeting and disrupts the work of the committee at his first meeting.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Sudbury East has the floor.

Mr. Eaton: That's right, somebody needs to. Going to disrupt it some more, too!

Mr. Martel: I want to, Mr. Speaker, if I might, go back to what I was—well, let me talk about a couple of other things first; just a couple of comments. There's been a lot said about Dave Barrett and the loss of the New Democrats in BC. It's interesting to see that Barrett took 70 per cent of the vote last night.

Mr. Gaunt: Were you out there campaigning for him?

Mr. Martel: Yes, it's an indication of what's coming here next. There's been a lot of criticism about the auto insurance.

Mr. Grossman: Are you finishing?

Mr. Martel: No, I'm just warming up. I have the report of an actuary and there have been a lot of comments—

Mr. Lewis: Back in an hour to catch the end of the preamble.

Mr. Martel: Fine.

I have the report of an actuary on what's happened in the BC auto insurance, by the way. And what's really happened is the money that was allocated by the government from the gas tax simply hasn't been put in place, and that's why the deficit.

The man who directs it is Mr. Byron Straig. He was asked by the BC government to investigate Autopac, and here's what he says with respect to it:

The total expenses in the first year, including commissions, were nevertheless below the amount that would have been incurred by private companies insuring the same risks for the same amounts under the conventional types of insurance operating in force in British Columbia in 1973.

The total expense of ICB for operating the auto plan in the first year were about 22.8 per cent of the premiums actually collected, and that would have been a lesser percentage of the adequate premiums that should have been collected. This compares with about 30 per cent of premium experienced by British Columbia auto insurance in 1972, after eliminating premium tax of two per cent of premium.

That's not bad for a startup year, but both ministers here want to give it back to the private sector so they can continue to gouge.

Certainly in BC they had built in an ability for the gas tax to cover part of it. What else? I hear everyone here screaming that we should be using revenue from the truckers and so on for the highways. Why not revenue from gas tax going to cover auto insurance if the government wants to reduce the cost to those people who are driving automobiles?

I saved the last little clipping from BC to the last because it deals with what went on in BC. They have some choice words for

some of the people who joined that party, that group which will be around for another couple of years and then decimated. Let me tell members what they said about—by the way, it's from the Vancouver Sun which is not noted for being sympathetic to the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Warner: Far from it.

Mr. Martel: It has some kind remarks for—let me tell the House:

Finally there are the three shameless Liberals—McGeer, Gardom and Williams—who are absolutely breathtaking in their bare-faced audacity. They moved, of course, into the Majority Movement in an attempt to outflank Bennett before they finally submitted to his whip.

If you just read even sections out of McGeer's book, "Politics in Paradise," written expressly to detail his disgust for Social Credit—or check the trio's quotes in Hansard—their conduct today is an appalling documentation of political expediency with power in sight.

Mr. McClellan: The highest traditions of the Liberal Party.

Mr. Martel: In the highest traditions of Liberals. We have three of them sitting over there. There are three of them across on that side of the floor who used to run as Liberals.

Mr. Swart: They did better here; they only took two days to change their minds.

Mr. Martel: To continue:

The usually mild-mannered Gordon Gibson, in a remarkable burst of candour, said into the Webster microphone that the three had stabbed Ray Perrault in the back, had stabbed David Anderson in the back and that Bill Bennett should be warned that they are just as likely to do the same thing to him.

Mr. Kerrio: You should be running in BC.

Mr. Martel: No. I have listened very quietly during this section of the reply to the budget. The references to BC have come from both sides of the House and I thought I would put on the record some of the comments of those people who are there to view it at first hand.

Mr. Peterson: When are you coming up with the line that we have more moves than Masters and Johnson?

Mr. Martel: It is typical, though, isn't it, that the member for London Centre, the

would-be Liberal leader, says that I make a comment about—

Mr. Peterson: I want you to know our party is filled with socialists who matured.

Mr. Martel: —the Liberal position, the new leader, having more positions than Masters and Johnson. Obviously when we look at the three Liberals in BC they suffer from the same disease. It's a disease of saying certain things depending on where you are.

Interjection.

Mr. Martel: Position never matters. I could go on about some of the Tories who ran as Socreds out there, for my Tory friends.

Mr. Peterson: When you grow up you are going to be a Liberal, too.

Mr. Martel: That will be the day. I made my mistake. I once voted Liberal. Everybody is entitled to one mistake in his life and that was mine.

Interjection.

Mr. Kerrio: Everyone is entitled to a flash of genius.

Mr. Martel: I want to go back, if I might, to Laurentian Hospital. Surely, if there has been a problem in the Sudbury area it has been around Laurentian Hospital. If there has been a problem in this Legislature, it has been the answers we received when we raised questions with the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson), most of which left those of us from the Sudbury area with a sense of disbelief in what she was saying.

[11:15]

Parliamentary language doesn't allow me to say that she misled the Legislature but I might say she was dissembling and I want to document why. Before I do that, I want to tell the House that the whole of this mess is an effort to keep the Ministry of Health out of the limelight. The Ministry of Health has gone around this province doing a lot of things, cutting here, cutting there—the whole business. The Ministry of Health's conduct in Laurentian Hospital has got to be looked into because they did two things that are unforgivable.

The first thing they wanted to do, and they succeeded in doing, was they got rid of the Grey Nuns. I hold no brief for the Grey Nuns, but the way it was done is something to behold. They had started the first hospital in Sudbury almost 100 years ago and they were eased out by the Ministry of Health, and I'm going to show in a few minutes how.

The other thing the Ministry of Health did was it gave large amounts of money when the land that the hospital was being built on still didn't belong to the hospital board. It continued to belong to the Grey Nuns. The Ministry of Health gave all kinds of money, in fact, the structure was started when they found out. That's why the Ministry of Health, the Ontario Hospital Commission was willing to pay \$369,000 or \$370,000 for a piece of land that could have been purchased for \$68,000. They wanted to get rid of them quietly.

By the way, I want to put on the record too that the Ministry of Health, when the inquiries started, indicated that they had no knowledge that the land belonged to the Grey Nuns. That's not true. The Ministry of Health and the Ontario Hospital Commission knew in 1966 to whom the land belonged. I have the minutes of a meeting.

Mr. Kerrio: Did they search the title?

Mr. Martel: No, they didn't search the title. They knew. At a meeting in 1966, of which I just happen to have the minutes—Dec. 20, 1966—Mr. Young of Inco is speaking. He did the purchase. He was the one who negotiated the purchase of the Idylwylde golf course—a portion of it—on behalf of the Grey Nuns. Present at the meeting where the land was discussed were none other than—get this list—Mr. Stanley W. Martin. Do you know who Stanley Martin is? He's the fellow who just stepped down as deputy minister. He was at the meeting. He was then chairman of the Ontario Hospital Commission. Also present were Dr. Donald Twiss, who is still with the ministry; Dr. J. Aldis, who is still with the Ministry of Health; Mr. Teasdale, who is still with the Ministry of Health; and Mr. Kenneth Box, and I'm not sure about him. Those five men attended that meeting in 1966, where the following was said:

It is the feeling of the board that we would co-operate with the General and Memorial Hospitals and follow the suggestions of the Sudbury and District Hospital Council in as long as the three hospitals followed them. But I would like very much to report to my board that we have the "Go" sign at Paris St. as I know that they expect us to come up with this out of this meeting. They want an answer.

Paris St. is the location of the new hospital. This is in 1966 at a meeting with five of the chief people in the Ministry of Health today, where people are attempting to make us believe that the Ministry of Health had no knowledge—absolutely none—that the land in

fact belonged to the order. And that's why they had to pay so much money to get out of the mess. They knew all along.

That's a symptom of what's wrong with the Ministry of Health. I think if there is an investigation it shouldn't be into what Chesley Hospital needs or what Doctors Hospital needs, it should be into the decisions reached and the moneys spent by the Ministry of Health. I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that this attempt to focus all of the blame on one individual in Sudbury, who certainly should be removed from the board, is nonsense because though he is implicated, they are too. By that, I mean the Ministry of Health was aware that the land was held by the sisters and there's no way out. As I say, I have named the five Ministry of Health people who were at that meeting in 1966.

Let me go on, because in 1972 it became obvious what the Ministry of Health wanted. It wanted the nuns out and wanted them out in the worst way. I'm going to read the letters which went to the Ministry of Health. The former acting Minister of Health shakes her head in disbelief. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to leave it to your wisdom, for your interpretation of what these mean. Okay? This is a letter written to Mr. Martin, the Deputy Minister of Health—no, he's writing the letter:

The purpose of this short note is to request that you extend the closing date of all tenders for your proposed building project by 30 days. During this interval, I would request that you take steps necessary to complete the following: To acquire the land.

Stanley Martin was at the meeting in 1966. The date of that meeting I have put on the record and he was at that meeting; he, along with Teasdale and others, was there. In 1972, the hospital started and it has to buy the land.

The second thing I want to draw to members' attention, now that Martin has decided we can't build a hospital with land belonging to someone else, is a letter from Mr. Bains to Mr. Lebel in which he tells him categorically to get on with the land transaction, get it completed. Then we have this second interesting thing. Listen to this. This is written by Johnson to Clusiau; the acting minister would know his name. It was Exhibit 127 in that inquiry. It contains a summary with respect to Laurentian and its administration. On page 2 he deals with the bylaws and says:

In November the writer was asked to review a set of draft administration bylaws for the Laurentian Hospital.

This was done and it became apparent to the writer that these draft bylaws would

not form a document suitable for a hospital incorporated under a non-religious charter. These bylaws were, in turn, reviewed in some detail with Judge Michel for legal opinion and he concurred completely with the writer's opinion.

It is understood that the bylaws, which were to go to the board for approval, were rejected by the body and a new bylaw committee was struck under the chairmanship of Judge Michel. [I'm quoting now from counsel] There we see starkly that the whole idea of the origins of Laurentian Hospital are cast aside.

Then we have this one, this other letter I want to quote from, on page 34, with respect to the bylaws. I'm quoting again from Johnson to Clusiau:

A rough draft of a set of administrative bylaws has been prepared by Judge Michel which has been distributed to the bylaw committee. This draft was discussed with Judge Michel, a copy brought to Toronto for review. In general, it can be stated that this draft forms the skeleton for a set of bylaws which would be acceptable for a lay incorporated hospital.

Don't tell me—the former acting Minister of Health can shake her head and say, "There was no intention of getting rid of the nuns." In 1972, that was correspondence among the staff. She can call it what she wants, but it was a deliberate attempt—and I hold no brief for the Grey Nuns—that's the way it was done. The Ministry of Health was heavily involved in getting rid of them.

I could go on, if the acting minister would like, but I won't bother.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The hon. member knows that he is misrepresenting the situation.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, would the minister like to get up and accuse me of misleading the House?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, I would as a matter of fact.

Mr. Martel: Get up and tell me I'm misleading the House.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of that kind of letter was to co-ordinate hospitals throughout the province on a similar basis. There was no thought of getting rid of the nuns in the provision of service within the institution, none whatever.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, let me quote the rest of the letter now that the minister has had her little say, because in fact the inten-

tion was not to allow the nuns to have the administration of the hospital. They go on:

This draft was discussed with Judge Michel and a copy brought back to Toronto for review. In general, it can be stated that this draft forms the skeleton of a set of bylaws which would be acceptable for a lay incorporated hospital.

The original intention of Laurentian was that it would be under the nuns in 1966. By 1972, the ministry had decided it would be a lay incorporated board, not the nuns. That letter is from Johnson to Clusiau, both in the Ministry of Health. Let me go on:

A detailed review is now being completed of the bylaws and, in the interests of expediency, the writer is going to return to Sudbury to review these in detail with Judge Michel. [Here is the key.] It certainly was "in the interest of expediency" as it is an expediency of change [that was desired].

That was the first real flaw in the hospital situation, that they moved in to move the nuns out.

Secondly, the ministry didn't bother to check the ownership, so they say. But five of the top people in the ministry were at a meeting on Dec. 20, from which I quoted the minutes, where the purchase of land from Idylwyld by the Grey Nuns was discussed and none other than Stan Martin, Teasdale and so on were there.

As I said earlier, it's an indication of what's wrong with the Ministry of Health because they weren't satisfied. We've got a hospital that has an operating budget, I think in the neighbourhood of \$10 million. It's not totally open. It's almost like the Ministry of Community and Social Services. It has a 100-bed expansion at Pioneer Manor and 50 lie empty because of budgetary restraints. That's a kind of a false budgetary restraint to have 50 beds empty. We'll talk about that in a few minutes too.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You don't believe that either.

Mr. Martel: Listen to what Howard says—this was the solicitor:

I do not know how much we heard over the past 45 days, but it was approved by the ministry. It is all very well to say there is a fine physical plant there, but in fact what's there is a 424-bed Cadillac, fully equipped, fully administratively staffed and only presently used to 40 per cent of its capacity; 175 beds are now open.

Simply divide that 175 beds into \$10 million and you find out what the operating costs

per bed are per year. And that again is the type of planning that goes on with the Ministry of Health.

I want to get to the former acting Minister of Health. She's beside herself there and I want to talk to some degree about some of the things she said in this Legislature too. I'm going to quote Hansard. On April 22 I asked the acting minister the following question:

A question of the acting Minister of Health: Why was the Ministry of Health willing to use what it now considers an illegal board at Laurentian Hospital to oust the Grey Nuns, and why at this point in time is the minister appointing a new hospital board?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, Judge Waisberg who is an eminent jurist [and all that went in, and finally she gets down to it] Because we felt Judge Waisberg's advice was valid advice and should be adhered to, we immediately contacted the hospital planning council in Sudbury, the chairman of the regional government, the present chairman of the board of that hospital, discussed the matter with them, asked for nominees to the board, and we suggested to them that it was the responsibility and probably, not probably but very definitely, the right of the individual groups within Sudbury to make those nominations at that time.

They selected three people from each of the two groups which I have mentioned. The regional hospital council and the regional council each nominated three persons.

[11:30]

That's not true. The regional council had absolutely no say. It was never discussed at regional council. It was decided by Joe Fabbro, the regional chairman. He ultimately admitted that to the press. A couple of days later, the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer) got up because one of the people he knows well on that board, my former Liberal opponent, Mike Solski, raised it with him. He rose in his place on April 26 and he asked the following question:

I have a question for the acting Minister of Health. On April 22 she advised the hon. member for Nickel Belt that the interim new board for Laurentian Hospital was appointed partly on the nomination of the regional council of Sudbury. Can she explain how this worked, when at least one mayor who is a member of the council assures me that no such discussion ever took place and no such nomination ever took place on the regional council?

I suggest that some of the minister's staff might not have been giving her factual information because she certainly was convinced that the procedure she asked to be followed was adhered to. We were trying to get through to her at that time, very early in the game, that she was not receiving factual information as to what was transpiring in Sudbury. This minister doesn't believe that maybe one checks once in a

while. Maybe it's her character but she tries to pull it off pretty well without always being precise.

I'm going to go on to two or three other examples, all dealing with the same issue. On that day I asked a supplementary question:

Is it not true that all of the appointments were made on the recommendations of the regional chairman?

The hon. minister said:

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, they were not. Three were made on the recommendation of the hospital planning council and three on the recommendation of the regional council.

That's not true. I'm sorry, it just didn't happen that way.

Let's go on, because I can't really understand why the minister played the role she played. Surely, if she didn't know the answers to questions she would have done like some of her colleagues and said, "I don't know. I'll find out and come back and tell you." Not this minister. I guess she's been reading too many of Norm Webster's articles which indicate she is champing at the bit to take a run at the Premier's job. I wish her well, but she's not going to do it that way. She's going to get in trouble that way.

Hon. B. Stephenson: You are the most gullible person in the world, really.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: He is incredible.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Both gullible and incredible at the same time.

Mr. Martel: Let me go on. I raised a question with respect to Laurentian Hospital a couple of days later. On May 3, again I'm quoting from Hansard:

I have a question of the acting Minister of Health . . . "A member of the council . . ." [and so on]

The minister replied:

I was in error in saying that the entire council had been consulted regarding these appointments but I have been informed that several members of council were consulted before the names were submitted.

They must have been some of Joe's Tory friends because they weren't other people on the council. I've done some checking too. That was Joe's decision. Let me tell you what he said the other night; he said, "The minister asked me to pick some—"I keep forgetting the word; not responsible but—

An hon. member: Reliable?

Mr. Martel: No, an even better word than that; he didn't say but he implied it. He picked seven people, all of them Tories and

they were the people who were to be responsible. There was no one else in that community except professional people and Tories.

I happen to have another letter from Mr. Gionet, who is the former chairman of the board. He talks about representation and I'm going to quote that in a few minutes too.

Again I asked:

Could the minister tell me why the government waited until the day following the termination of the appointments of Judge Michel and Mrs. Evans?

It just so happened that the appointments followed one day after the termination of the two government appointments on the board—Judge Gerry Michel and Mrs. Evans. That was just coincidence of course. That's what the minister said.

There are those of us in Sudbury who really don't—

Mr. Renwick: On a point of order.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: My point of order is that this is a very important matter and I want to ask my colleague whether he thinks there should be more members here.

Mr. Martel: No, I have the minister here.

Mr. Renwick: You're quite happy?

Mr. Martel: I am quite happy, the minister is here.

Mr. Kerrio: NDP members, you mean?

Mr. Bain: There are lots of us.

Mr. Martel: It is not just coincidence that that came the day after. There are too many coincidences around this hospital.

Let's go to the next one. I couldn't be here on one day, so I asked my colleague, the leader of the New Democratic Party, to raise on my behalf a question with the Minister of Health, and he did. This is what was said:

Mr. Lewis: A question, if I may, of the acting Minister of Health: When the board of Laurentian Hospital was reconstituted, following the interim recommendations of the judge, why did the minister leave on the new board only one person from the old board, the single most-controversial person of all, about whom the inquiry largely dealt, and that is J-P. Lebel?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it was the judgement of the judge investigating Laurentian Hospital that the specific member was one of the two members who were, in fact, properly appointed to that board—and therefore should be left on.

There were three: Fr. Bertrand, Sister Claire Dupont and J-P Lebel. Again, that's

member for Riverdale, both of them. what I mean about the minister not getting the proper information; there were three. It goes on:

Mr. Lewis: If I understand—we haven't yet seen the interim report; I think it is still at the printer's, is it not?—is the minister saying that Judge Waisberg himself suggested that J-P. Lebel should be on the new board or was that a decision that was taken by the ministry in conjunction with Mr. Fabbro and others?

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, this was not a decision taken by the ministry. The recommendation of Judge Waisberg was that those members of the board who, in his terms at least, had been inappropriately appointed to the board and were therefore probably not legally members of the board, should be asked to resign from the board, and that the board should be reconstituted by leaving the two members. . . .

And they were Sister Claire Dupont and J-P. Lebel.

Mr. Eaton: He was going to call a quorum.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Jim, you can't leave now. The member for Sudbury (Mr. Germa) left and now the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick). The member for Sudbury and the member for Riverdale, both of them.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Grossman: He wanted someone else.

Mr. Martel: I want to repeat that final statement. This is the minister saying it: "That the board should be reconstituted by leaving the two members—and there are two, Sister Claire being the other—who are legally, properly constituted members of that board."

Is the minister saying that Waisberg, in fact, said, "Keep them on"? Waisberg did not say keep them on. Waisberg, in fact, said the opposite. In his addendum he said, "Remove them all." Again, I say, how does the minister get trapped and why doesn't—

Mr. Eaton: Mr. Speaker, I don't see a quorum in the House.

Mr. Acting Speaker: ordered that the bells be rung for four minutes.

Mr. Acting Speaker: I see a quorum.

Mr. Foulds: I came back.

Mr. Martel: He came back. Let me tell the members what—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: That gives you six over there.

Mr. Acting Speaker: The hon. member for Sudbury East will continue and ignore the interjections.

Mr. Martel: Judge Waisberg in his report, in his addendum—

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: There goes one of them. You have got five.

Mr. Martel: He says:

In case these recommendations have not said is clearly, it is emphatically my view that no person who served as a member of the Laurentian board or who is presently a member of the Laurentian board should now be appointed as a director pursuant to your powers.

That isn't what the minister told the House. The minister told the House that Waisberg definitely stated Lebel and Dupont should be on. She hasn't apologized for those facts which inadvertently led to people making conclusions that they shouldn't have, but that's at least the second one.

I want to go on because I came back to this problem because my colleague, the leader of the party, raised a point of privilege on May 10. I can't find anywhere where the Speaker has attempted to straighten this matter out but maybe we are still awaiting a response. Maybe we will get it from the Speaker some day. It went a little further and the leader of the New Democratic Party and the member for Wilson Heights again raised this. On May 11 my leader said:

I won't assume that's a threat. I will go to another question Why did she not tell us in the Legislature, when we were questioning her about the Laurentian Hospital, of the subsequent directive from Commissioner Waisberg, her letter requesting the resignation . . .

We got to the letter. The minister has led the House to believe that letters were sent to various members of the board asking for their resignations. There was one letter sent out. One letter was sent out to Mr. Gionet. I have it here. I have the letter which was submitted on April 14 to Roger Gionet. There were not extra copies sent to any of the other board members.

Mr. Gionet was supposed to run this letter off, as I understand it, and give it to the other board members. The rest of the board members got letters directly from the Ministry of Health last week, the same photostat letter. This was on April 14 and that letter was addressed to Roger Gionet, Esq., and I will read the letter to the House.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, copies of the letter to Mr. Gionet were sent to every single board member a few days following the original letter to Mr. Gionet; every single one.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I am going to ask that you investigate this because that's not factual.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It is the truth.

Mr. Martel: That is not factual. I have checked with a great number of the board members personally and they received the letter about a week and a half ago. They have not received this letter. Mr. Gionet was supposed to Xerox this apparently and give it to them at a board meeting on April 20. It was almost the end of May before this letter was sent to the board members. I suggest the minister check it out.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I did.

[11:45]

Mr. Martel: No, I think the minister had better check it again. I will give her the names of the people to check with: Mr. Homer Seguin, United Steel Workers; Mr. Paul Guertin; Mr. Richard Pharand, a lawyer. If she wants to check with those people I suggest she do so. I am telling her they did not receive a letter until, at the latest, two weeks ago.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the letters were sent out.

Mr. Martel: A letter was sent to Mr. Gionet and I will quote it:

As you know, during the recent inquiry serious doubt was raised as to the legal status of the present directors of Laurentian Hospital.

In fact, this is a letter that was sent out to people who donated four or five years of their time free, no thanks, no nothing, to that whole board. It continues:

I understand that you have obtained a legal opinion from counsel to the effect that, except as to the original applicants for incorporation, the present directors were not validly elected or appointed and accordingly never became directors of the corporation.

Judge Waisberg in an interim report which he has submitted to me has made the same point. He considers that the matter requires urgent action "to protect the legal status of the Laurentian Hospital and further to protect any and all parties who may be dealing with or entering into any transaction with this hospital corporation."

I might digress for a moment. Mr. Gionet was the acting chairman of the board after Mr. Lebel stepped down as chairman but

not as a board member. And I am going back to the letter now:

I am, of course, deeply disturbed by the situation for the reasons which prompted Judge Waisberg to submit his interim report. Apart from other, obvious reasons, the expensive provincial funding of the hospital makes it imperative that the legal status of the directors and the other corporate affairs of the hospital be beyond legal question.

Judge Waisberg's report recommended that the following steps be taken forthwith in order to remedy the legal impasse:

All board members be requested to immediately submit their resignation; and

Directors be named under Section 9(11) of the Public Hospitals Act in order to create a board.

Pursuant to the second recommendation, a panel of directors is being appointed under Section 9(11) of the Public Hospitals Act. The function of these directors will be to ensure that the corporate affairs of the corporation are put in proper legal order and in particular to ensure that the necessary preparations are made for valid election by the general members of the corporation of the board. [The final paragraph]

In addition to, and also pursuant to Judge Waisberg's recommendations, this is to request that the present directors of the Laurentian Hospital submit formal resignations to the corporation and cease to exercise the function of directors of the corporation. I realize, of course, that the formal resignations may have no legal significance in the case of someone who never became a director of the corporation. I believe, however, that a formal resignation from each board member would have a salutary effect; the resignations would constitute a significant demonstration of the willingness of the present directors to co-operate with the minister in the resolution of the problem and thus of their goodwill to the community which the hospital serves.

That was directed to the acting chairman of the board, Mr. Gionet.

As I say, there was never a letter directed until recently to other members of the board; within the last two weeks some of them have received it. I would ask the Speaker to check it out as being factual. I give you the names of just three people who had not up until two weeks ago received a copy of the letter. You will note that this letter is directed to Mr. Gionet.

I might ask the former acting Minister of Health if it was a Xerox of this letter that was addressed to Mr. Gionet. It is too bad the other board members didn't get it because I also have the board meeting minutes. You will notice the date of that, April 14. That is an intriguing date because just a couple of days later a telegram was sent, Mr. Speaker. Listen to what the telegram says:

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE LEGAL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE LAURENTIAN HOSPITAL ARE:

And I hope the acting minister listens to this.

J-P. LEBEL

That's no. 1 on the list.

L. A. BELLAMY, DR. ROLAND HEBERT, A. PHARAND, GASTON DEMERS, GILBERT MICHAUD, W. J. COOK AND J. REID.

It is signed by Alan Backley, the Deputy Minister of Health. When I asked this question in the Legislature how was it that the letter which was dated April 14 asking for the resignations was followed up seven days later by a telegram asking for the re-appointment of J-P. Lebel to the board, the minister said that's because his name appeared first because L comes first in alphabetical order ahead of the rest. I suggest to the House: Bellamy, Demers, Cook and Hebert. But that was the type of glib answer we got.

His name appeared first because the significant thing was that the Ministry of Health was in fact reappointing J-P. Lebel to the board. There's no way the minister can get out of that, because that's in the telegram that I have before me and we're still awaiting an explanation of how that occurred. When I suggested that maybe it was because Mr. Lebel had too much influence with the board, as he bragged during the inquiry, the Premier (Mr. Davis) said, "Oh, that's old stuff." The acting Minister of Health said, "Oh, that's the worst answer I've heard all day."

I want to ask the minister, why does she appoint a man seven days later after she's dismissed him?

Hon. B. Stephenson: He was not appointed.

Mr. Martel: He was by this telegram. It says, "For your information, the legal members of the board of the Laurentian Hospital are: J-P. Lebel . . ." That's seven days after the minister's letter.

Hon. B. Stephenson: That is simply a fact in answer to a question.

Mr. Martel: Seven days after the minister's letter. Let me tell her what Mr. Gionet has said about that. The telegram is saying the legally appointed members of the board are J-P. Lebel—

Hon. B. Stephenson: It doesn't say "newly appointed." It says "legal members."

Mr. Martel: No, no, it doesn't say "duly appointed." It says: "For your information, the legal members of the board of Laurentian Hospital are: J-P. Lebel . . ." and then lists the other seven. That's seven days after the minister's letter went out.

Mr. Hodgson: What's the matter with that?

Mr. Martel: They had just been fired seven days before.

Hon. B. Stephenson: He had not been fired. His resignation had been requested.

Mr. Martel: Why would you reappoint him and say he's a legally constituted member?

Hon. B. Stephenson: He was not reappointed. You're misleading the House again, Elie.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker there's a letter dated May 6, from Mr. Gionet the chairman of the board—a rather interesting letter. It's to the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller), dated May 6, 1976, signed by Roger A. Gionet.

I'm writing to you as chairman of the board of directors of Laurentian Hospital to inform you of our position following the events which have taken place during the past three weeks and to request that you meet with a delegation from our board to discuss the situation as it exists in Sudbury.

In a letter dated April 14, 1976, a copy of which is included, there is mentioned that we have obtained a legal opinion to the effect that the present directors never became directors of the corporation.

The opinion which we have received, a copy of which is also included, states on page 4 thereof that it may well be established that a quorum of duly qualified directors was present at the Aug. 30, 1972, board meeting, and that the interim administrative bylaws were accordingly properly enacted.

You never discussed that with them.

Could this be the reason for Judge Waisberg to recommend that all board members be requested to immediately submit their resignations? For your information, very few members submitted their resignations.

Another recommendation from Judge Waisberg was that directors be named under 9(11) of the Public Hospitals Act, in order to create a board able to act.

This section gives the ministry the power to appoint provincial representatives to the board of directors. I understand that following the order in council, your ministry gave instructions to our staff that the new named "representatives" along with Mr. J-P. Lebel were to be recognized as the board of directors.

Now, you tell me about that one. That's Mr. Gionet.

Hon. B. Stephenson: That is Mr. Gionet's opinion. Opinion.

Mr. Martel: He goes on:

We fail to understand where this new body is legally constituted to ensure that the corporate affairs of the corporation are put into legal order.

Let me go on, because it gets more intriguing, more interesting.

The state of affairs of April 14, 1976, was as follows:

We had instructed our solicitor to take steps to legalize the board if it were not properly constituted. The finance committee has done a lot of work on proper internal control. Our final bylaws were almost ready for approval. Our building committee was hard at work clearing up deficiencies. Negotiations with CUPE were well in hand. The bilingual aspect of the hospital was being reviewed. Our auxiliary was functioning well. In the words of an official from your ministry, Laurentian Hospital was giving you very little trouble, considering that we had recently opened our doors and had taken over from an existing hospital . . .

I might say that was largely due to the labour representative on that board, who in fact played a major role in getting the Laurentian board to agree to accept all of the staff from St. Joseph, carrying all their rights and services with them. That's one of the reasons I'm so upset that there's no representation from labour.

Hon. B. Stephenson: There will be as soon as the new board is elected.

Mr. Martel: Yes, there will be.

Hon. B. Stephenson: You know that.

Mr. Martel: Yes, I know that, right.

Hon. B. Stephenson: This is an interim board and you are making a monstrous mountain out of a molehill.

Mr. Martel: Let's see what else Gionet says. He also says the following:

Since April 24, 1976, your representatives took over with very little knowledge of the affairs of Laurentian Hospital. They have to rely completely on the staff and on Mr. J-P. Lebel for guidance. One of the new directors phoned [and get this] to ask, would you imagine, if I would act as a resource person. He stated that he could not trust Mr. Lebel and that the staff is now in a position to write its own ticket.

Some reliance on those new people the minister picked. It goes further:

We are prepared to co-operate with the new directors but not on a unilateral basis and not as resource persons. Furthermore, a lot of the people around us feel that our new representatives are not very representative of the various elements of our society.

The minister can cut it any way she wants and tell this House anything she wants but I know my region. I know it very well. I don't know Roger Gionet very well except that I know he's above reproach. I want to tell the minister, she's done those people on that board a disservice because she didn't even have the courtesy to write a letter of thanks acknowledging the efforts these people have made in the past or anything. She sent one letter to Roger Gionet and Xerox copies of that letter went out several weeks ago to others.

I want to tell the minister that she's mishandled this thing from beginning to end and she has brought to the House on more than three occasions material which was really not factual. She really hasn't attempted to clear it up.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, I have.

Mr. Martel: She's tried to bluff her way through this. I've been here a few years and I have never seen anyone try to bluff their way through a situation the way this minister

has. I really haven't and I've been here nine years.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It's about time you had some other experience.

Mr. Martel: Yes, your party will never do it.

Mr. Bain: Is that kind of glib answer the best you can do?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member—?

Mr. Bain: That's typical of your performance!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I did clarify this situation completely in the House. If I did not apologize abjectly to satisfy the member for Sudbury East, I shall very happily do it right now. I take full responsibility for any misleading or misrepresentation on the basis of my lack of information, but not very long ago, I did clarify the entire situation within this House. The member for Sudbury East, unfortunately, was not here to hear it—

Mr. Martel: I read Hansard.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —because he was too busy at home writing his diatribe to attack me.

I am sorry but I now have to leave. I have other commitments.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. members speak through the Chair, please?

Mr. Martel: I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, through you to the minister, that I read what's in Hansard. I didn't mislead the House; she did.

Hon. B. Stephenson: You didn't read all of it then.

Hon. Mr. Meen: You sure didn't comprehend it then.

Mr. Martel: I comprehend it well.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: There is a difference between reading and comprehending it.

Mr. Bain: The problem is he does understand it.

Mr. Martel: Let the minister, the new bright boy who just spoke up, tell me how a telegram reappointing seven days later those you've thrown off the board—how that happens?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: You tell me; you are the authority.

Mr. Martel: No, it's your minister who's been misleading or misrepresenting.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Can we get back to the hon. member's formal remarks?

Mr. Martel: Let me tell you—I want to end it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hodgson: I have never heard so much crap in nine years.

Mr. Martel: I want to end it. Here is the last letter I want to quote and get the date, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Hodgson: Have you got anything to talk about?

Mr. Martel: May 27, last week, the Minister of Health wrote to Mr. J-P. Lebel. After all the claptrap we've just heard, the minister wrote J-P. Lebel the following letter:

This will refer to the subject matter of our telephone discussion today.

You have asked that the request for your resignation as director of Laurentian Hospital be made specifically to you rather than as a part of a general request for the request for the resignation of directors.

What did the minister just say to us—it went to individual members? Now, here's the Minister of Health saying what has been requested of him.

I understand that your situation differed from that of the persons who were acting as directors in that you were a first director of the hospital upon its incorporation.

As you know, Judge Waisberg recommended in his interim report that all board members must be requested to submit their resignations and that I appoint new members. In a subsequent addendum, Judge Waisberg made it clear that he referred to all persons acting as board members, without distinguishing between them. Therefore, in pursuance of Judge Weisberg's recommendation, I would request that you voluntarily submit your resignation.

That is dated last week—May 27—despite what the Minister of Revenue's friend, the acting minister, just said. Does the minister understand that language? Or the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth), who said I am an expert? Maybe he understood the last letter.

Mr. McClellan: They seem awfully busy reading it right now.

Mr. Martel: That was signed last week by the Minister of Health. Maybe they've got a

come-back. Maybe they can tell me about it. There's been one distortion of the facts after another. I don't need the apology from the minister, but I want to tell him who does—the people, some of whom gave up to 10 years from the time they started planning that hospital until it was opened a couple of months ago. When that board was dismissed, there wasn't even a thank-you note to them for the service they had rendered to the Sudbury basin. That is what is unforgivable.

The other thing that is unforgivable, of course, is that the labour representation was left off the board. After all, I would suggest that at least 85 per cent of the people who work in the Sudbury basin carry a lunch pail. And that is no disrespect. They pay a fair share—in fact, they pay the biggest share of the tax in the Sudbury area. Certainly they have entitlement to representation on that board, but it is not there.

One final point on the hospital situation is that all of this has not been done without some reason; as I said when I started my comments on Laurentian Hospital, it is to cover up what happened there at the beginning—the ousting of the nuns, paying for land when the title hadn't been searched—I am sure the Solicitor General would know what that means—and building a building when you don't own the property and the Ministry of Health advancing the funds to do it. That's incompetency at its highest point.

[12:00]

While they use that to cover up, to keep the heat off the Ministry of Health, they do another thing too. There's great talk about Laurentian Hospital costing \$33 million. In fact, Laurentian's cost is \$22 million. It is only a very small percentage off the original forecasts of the cost of the hospital. But there are two other things there, namely what the other two hospitals got to add beds. For example, to add 40 beds at the General Hospital, the cost is going to be in the neighbourhood of \$7 million, as approved by the Ministry of Health; and for a small improvement at Memorial Hospital, the total is more than \$2 million, which is more money that was supposedly allocated in the beginning on the cost-sharing agreement amongst the three hospitals in Sudbury. If we can keep the heat on one individual who deserves to be removed from the board—I state that categorically—we don't then look at the other problems. What I'm saying is that we have to look at the total number of problems sur-

rounding the three hospitals and the action of the Ministry of Health in this whole mess.

While the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) is still here, I want to turn very briefly to the budget of the Children's Aid Society in the city of Sudbury. Like others, I guess the Sudbury board doesn't have much clout; it's not that big a board. But, with the minister in attendance, he might be willing to give the Sudbury board some assistance. In 1975, the budget estimate—I checked it out last week; the minister still hadn't met with them—was \$2,415,434. The actual amount spent was \$2,547,254. In fact, by no choice of their own, they spent \$130,000 more than the ministry had approved, so they had a deficit last year. To meet this year's expense they would need at least 9.5, the very minimum but the minister is holding them to 5.5. They have no control over who the courts send to them. They have no control over how many come from social and family services. They have no control over that. They are in the position of having overspent by \$130,000 what you approved last year. There is no way they can cope with the 5.5 because to break even—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: When did you talk to them last?

Mr. Martel: Last week. Last Thursday.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: And they hadn't heard from me? You'd better check again.

Mr. Martel: No.

Mr. Hodgson: That was yesterday.

Hon. Mr. Meen: You mean yesterday?

Mr. Martel: I spoke to them Thursday. I tell the minister I spoke to them—

Hon. Mr. Meen: Why don't you get more current—

Mr. Martel: I tell the minister I checked it out last Thursday and I had no response. I want to go on though—

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: We go on Thursday. I suspect they have—

Have you some information then? Could the minister share with us any information as to what has happened since then? Has he given them the 9.5 minimum plus—they need 19, really, to operate. Already, due to unemployment they are ahead in the number of children they have received over and against last year.

Mr. Laughren: Don't disturb the bears.

Mr. Martel: Because of acts of this—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You check and you will see that I have checked with them very clearly.

Mr. Martel: You tell me what you have done since last Thursday and I will believe you.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is making a speech. It's not the question and answer period.

Mr. Martel: Certainly I'm making a speech.

What do you think I'm here for?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member should realize that the Speaker is speaking as well.

Mr. Martel: Right. Through you, Mr. Speaker, the Children's Aid Society has received from welfare and mental retardation and because of changes in the juvenile delinquent Act, more children at this time now than it had last year. Quite a substantial number. It must now cut programmes as of last Thursday.

I thought I was going to speak last Thursday night and that's why I checked it out on Thursday morning. I suspect my assessment is correct and they haven't met.

There are 80 kids in Sudbury who are in outside treatment. In other words there are no resource places in the city of Sudbury for these children, 80 of them. We would need four group homes at a cost of about \$135,000. Of course, there is no money to start up group homes. If it has no money to start up group homes; if its budget is greater last year than the ministry had approved, if it is already carrying \$135,000 debt, then it is in real trouble. The provincial caseload average I guess is—what? 42 to one? No, 22 to one. In the Sudbury area it is 42 to one—caseload per worker.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What are you talking about? It varies.

Mr. Martel: It varies, but the provincial average is 22 to one.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It doesn't mean that much, you know.

Mr. Martel: It does when you—

Mr. McClellan: How can you say that?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Very simply, because the statistics don't establish the true nature—

Mr. McClellan: That's a lot of nonsense. I do know what I'm talking about. It's obvious you don't.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member for Sudbury East continue his remarks, through the Chair, please?

Mr. Martel: What I was trying to say, Mr. Speaker, is that we've got 80 children who need outside care. If they're going to have to cut back they are not going to be able to get the type of group home treatment necessary.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We are not cutting back.

Mr. Martel: They will cost us more money in the long run because they will miss the treatment they need now. They'll go back home, we might try to help them a little bit, but they are not going to get the type of care they need now. They are going to cost us a heck of a lot more down the road.

Secondly, the average is 42 to one. It's so bad in Sudbury that despite the former Minister (Mr. Brunelle) bringing in a good piece of legislation last year which allowed putting a homemaker into a home, the Children's Aid Society in Sudbury has not had the money to even get one.

I was the critic at that time and complimented the minister for bringing that particular piece of legislation in, because it was the beginning, I thought, of an attempt to salvage the family in the home before they broke up totally. But we haven't been able to hire one homemaker. As I say, despite all that and despite an overrun of money last year, the minister is going to try and hold the Sudbury board to 5.5. He's going to meet with them.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Are you saying there are no homemakers in your community?

Mr. Martel: I am saying that the Children's Aid Society does not have a homemaker.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right. Are there any homemakers?

Mr. Martel: Yes, sure. That welfare board has a number of homemakers, but the Children's Aid Society simply haven't been able to get one on their staff who they could utilize in preventing the family breakup or taking children out of the home. There is no sense in having it in the Act if you can't afford it. It will look good, providing you are putting the funding in place to utilize it. It is going to save money in the long run. I am sure the minister is aware of that—it will save money in the long run. They are going to cut programmes in Sudbury this year.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I doubt that.

Mr. Martel: Well, the minister might doubt it; he could prevent it. He could prevent it if we could shake him loose from some of the dollars that he has over in that ministry. As I said, 20 of the 80 children will not get institutionalized care. And I don't mean in some big institution, but some group home treatment, some specialized treatment that is necessary. We don't have it in Sudbury—20 out of 80—okay? And with the kids from three different sources, the need is 9.5—and one of the cuts already is summer vacation. Now that sells well with the public, by the way. If you say, "We are not going to be able to send a child to a summer camp"—that sort of thing sells well. Because people say, "Well, my kids don't go to summer camp either."

But you have to take into consideration the kids we are dealing with. They are kids who have had some very serious problems in their background, otherwise they wouldn't be in the care of the Children's Aid Society. Or they have no parents. That's the sort of thing that many of us just accept as commonplace. To this group of young people, it is tremendously beneficial.

We won't be able to hire students from the social service programme. We are training them at university, but my understanding is that the Children's Aid Society will not be able to hire any young people to give them the experience needed.

Hopefully, Mr. Speaker, the minister will have further information as to what they have done in Sudbury, when his estimates are up next week.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I have it now.

Mr. Martel: Well, tell me what you have done.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You are not interested in it

Mr. Martel: Tell me what you have done.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is a debate. As the hon. member knows, he must address his remarks through the Chair.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, he says he has done something and I am saying he hasn't met with them.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You are not interested in what has been done.

Mr. Martel: And if he has got something with which to indicate to me—something of which he can say, "Yes, we have given nine per cent."

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You are not interested in the facts.

Mr. Martel: "Or eight per cent; or we met with them last Wednesday, or yesterday"—fine, let him say so.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You are not interested in the facts.

Mr. Martel: You tell me when you met with them.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You are only interested in the creation of public opinion.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue his remarks to the Chair. Thank you.

Mr. Martel: Yes, I am trying to create public opinion. I wonder what the minister was doing. I can't help it—I resent that. Let me talk about public opinion, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Laughren: That's slander.

Mr. Martel: Here's the Globe and Mail. It says: "Which Mothers, Mr. Taylor?" What type of public opinion do you think, Mr. Speaker, the minister was talking about when he complained about the women who would not get out of their kimonos, and would go back to bed after the kids went to school? What public opinion do you think he was creating?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I didn't say that, and you know it is not correct.

Mr. Martel: What public opinion do you think he was attempting to create, Mr. Speaker?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You are deliberately misleading the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: He has to withdraw that statement, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Laughren: Name the minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister knows he cannot make a statement like that. I will ask him to withdraw those remarks of deliberately misleading the House.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I said—

Mr. Speaker: No, there's no ifs or ands. He must withdraw the statement.

[12:15]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: A point of personal privilege.

Mr. Bain: No, withdraw.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: On a point of personal privilege, I was misquoted.

Mr. Bain: Withdraw.

Mr. Speaker: That's different.

Mr. Bain: You can't have a point of personal privilege against the Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I was misquoted by the member from Sudbury.

Mr. Speaker: That's a different thing. I said you must not—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister or anyone else may not say that an hon. member is misleading or has misled the House, deliberately or otherwise, and I would ask him to withdraw those remarks please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Then I will withdraw those remarks, Mr. Speaker, and ask for an apology.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Sudbury East will continue.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Apologize.

Mr. Hodgson: He is not man enough.

Mr. Bain: That minister should apologize to all the kids in this province.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member for Sudbury—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, why should that member have the privilege in this House to deliberately attribute to me remarks which I did not state, which are absolutely false?

Mr. Laughren: You are quoted in all of the media.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am not, that's incorrect.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is also a rule that if a member says he did not say something that must be accepted by all people in this House, including the member for Sudbury East or anyone else. If the hon. minister has stated he did not make

those remarks that must be accepted, so the hon. member will be guided accordingly.

Mr. Laughren: He is a bit thin-skinned.

Mr. Martel: I am just saying what was quoted in the newspaper and I make the point because it was the minister who had said it. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, he accused me of trying to arouse public opinion, and I just throw back at him what's in the newspaper.

Mr. Laughren: Shame, slanderous.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member please continue his remarks through the Chair?

Mr. Martel: I simply ask the question then, who is attempting to do what? I look at Norm Webster's article, and the heading says: "Humane Outlook Needed." It starts: "It was the first question period in two months and one of the flattest in memory . . ."

Later it says:

In brief, they must deny themselves the luxury of welfare-bashing. And here both the minister, James Taylor, and his government will bear watching. Tightening up on welfare makes sense, both financially and socially, but it is all too easy to get carried away. Welfare budgets have to be watched.

Everybody is watching the minister. He grabs headlines but he makes accusations against other members who are attempting to create public opinion.

I just want to talk briefly on two more points about Sudbury, and one is the day care in Sudbury. The city of Sudbury was funding and assisting in day care only children who were children of working mothers—mother led families—and it has been forced to reduce the number of children who, in fact, were subsidized.

Again, I checked that out last Thursday and the number is down in the neighbourhood of 22 or 23 less. If the intent—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The number of what?

Mr. Martel: Children subsidized.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Because they are not attending?

Mr. Martel: No, because the city doesn't have the money to pay for the subsidization of too many.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The places are there; more are being built.

Mr. Martel: The places are there, but if the city is not going to subsidize them because it doesn't have the money, what good are the places?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There is a francophone one going in.

Mr. Martel: What good are the places if we haven't got the money to subsidize them? The city of Sudbury or the region has had to cut back on the amount of money for subsidization.

Mr. Laughren: He sure is a provocative minister.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It is a question of municipality in terms of the priority.

An hon. member: Straighten him out, Margaret.

Mr. Martel: Finally, Pioneer Manor is a home for senior citizens and it has an addition of 100 new beds.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I was there.

Mr. Martel: Right, they opened the place.

Mr. Laughren: Your own reception too.

Mr. Martel: They were only able to open 50. It is hoped that funding can be found to open the other 50 in September or October. The only reason they have been able to open it up, I understand—and my colleague was at a meeting with me—was that under the restraint package they were, in fact, going to cut 15 people off in the existing staff and they took that existing staff and put it in with the 50 new beds.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, no.

Mr. Martel: They have 80 or 90 people on a waiting list and they have 50 beds vacant. What type of false economy is it? It should be open right now. It's a false type of economy.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You know it and I know it that a budget has been projected for the full year.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Sudbury East will continue with his speech.

Mr. Laughren: The minister is being provocative.

Mr. Martel: They have opened 50 beds. You have 50 beds vacant.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: They have overbuilt if they are not using them.

Mr. Laughren: You are misleading the House now.

Mr. Martel: They have a waiting list of about 90 people and they cannot open it up because of funding. As far as I am concerned, that is the worst type of restraint going. There is a need. There is a facility. There just isn't enough money for staff.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Any new facility was provided with funds for its operation.

Mr. Martel: I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is incredible that a minister can sit there and bark the way he is going on now at me when in fact he is responsible.

Mr. Laughren: What did you say?

Mr. Martel: Bark.

Mr. Laughren: I thought you said bark.

Mr. Martel: I said bark. In fact, he knows that facility is there. He knows there is a need. He knows we can move into it tomorrow. All he has to do is say yes. That's a false type of restraint.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's not the reason for it. That is a non sequitur and you know it.

Mr. Martel: Here is a statement by the Canadian Council on Social Development, released March 1. It is headed: "Ontario Restraint Programme Called Arbitrary and Punitive."

Reuben C. Baetz, executive director of the Canadian Council on Social Development, today criticized the arbitrary nature of restraint measures announced in Ontario as well as the intimidating and punitive tone of the announcement. "They give the impression of a public purging of the parasitic poor carried out for the general good."

I suppose Reuben Baetz is trying to escalate it too. He was responding to the statement by this ministry.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You have said it.

Mr. Martel: I am quoting directly from his statement. I am not making any of it up. It is in this statement. Let me go on.

One recently announced restraint measure is that welfare recipients who refuse to work will be cut off benefits.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: I didn't make that statement. Let me repeat that.

One recently announced restraint measure is that welfare recipients who refuse to work will be cut off benefits. "Unfortunately this implies that there are many people on welfare who choose not to work" [I am quoting Mr. Baetz].

That is the impression that the government of Ontario attempted to leave in its restraint package this spring, because it's the hardhat, redneck approach.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's false and you know it.

Mr. Martel: You gain all kinds of votes that way at the expense of people who can least afford it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You are hurting the very people you profess you want to help.

Mr. Martel: To continue from Mr. Baetz:

Any measures to help employable people on welfare find work are obviously to be welcomed. But a positive rather than a punitive approach is surely in order because determining who is employable or unemployable is a highly complex matter and should be approached with understanding.

That is something this government has never understood.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Which it is and always has been.

Mr. Bain: You are about as understanding as Scrooge.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Sudbury East will continue his remarks.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I will just make one final comment from Mr. Baetz.

The suggestion that prodding welfare recipients to find employment will save a great deal of money is totally unrealistic because there are not many people on welfare who can find work and because it may cost more money in some cases to have these people work.

That is what I suggest about the working mothers in the city of Sudbury. They lose because of the government's restraint package. If children are forced to be taken out of daycare centres because they don't have the money to be subsidized and the mother must leave the workplace, what we've got is a greater cost to society than anything else.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's a needs test for day care and you don't believe in that.

Mr. Martel: Yes, I know it's a needs test. I also know that if the municipality doesn't get the adequate funding to provide it, then you can have all the needs tests in the world and the children aren't going to get there. It is the minister who put in the restraint package.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The municipality determines the priorities; they don't provide the funding.

Mr. Martel: One final point, Mr. Speaker, I have just a comment on the latest study in the United States called, "The Real Welfare Chiselers," which was put out recently by a specialist in welfare reform. I just want to quote a couple of very important points because Ontario doesn't understand it. For the past few years I begged the Minister of Community and Social Services, previous to this minister, to spend as much money on advertising what the real facts were surrounding welfare recipients as we have spent, for example, in trying to get a dial-a-bus system going. That was \$300,000 a couple of years ago. This is to present the facts as they really are. I quote: "In the United States it's been recently found a government investigation of fraud determined that 0.4 per cent, or four out of every 1,000 cases of all welfare cases were fraudulent."

Four out of a thousand. When I stand around this Legislature and listen to all the rednecks who tell me about the people who are taking the system for a ride, my stomach does a flip. Why? The government's own studies indicate that not more than 1.5 per cent of those on welfare take it for a ride. The myth is deliberately perpetuated out there so they can become the scapegoat for all the hardhats who say it's easier to stay at home than it is to go to work.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's a distortion because you have to distinguish between fraud and abuse or misuse of the system.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Martel: It's less than two per cent anywhere in North America.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Why don't you talk straight for a change?

Mr. Martel: This government won't spend one red cent to put those facts across to the public because it's too easy. As with your predecessors—the present Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) and the former Treasurer of Ontario, Charlie MacNaughton, who used to

stomp around the province talking about all the long-haired kids who didn't want jobs—their studies destroyed them. So it continues.

The minister played the game this spring; we didn't. We didn't make up the headlines in the *Globe and Mail*; they came from the minister's press statements because he made press releases.

There was never anything positive. The whole thing with the hospitals was part of the restraint package which was going to demonstrate a government concerned primarily with bringing inflation under control and concerned about bringing social costs down. The people it attacked are the very people who could not support themselves. Members know the Tories fell flat on their faces. All of them fell flat on their faces.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: How many more hundreds of millions do you want us to spend?

Mr. Martel: Here it comes. This is the concerned minister. How many hundreds of millions? In my four years as a critic I have never once suggested the minister go out and spend more money.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What are you doing now?

Mr. Martel: No, I didn't say that at all.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The member for Sudbury East has the floor.

Mr. Martel: I'm saying you've got to—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We're spending more millions this year than last year.

Mr. Martel: Sure.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, would you call him to order?

Mr. Acting Speaker: The Speaker is calling him to order.

Mr. Martel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm suggesting, as I've suggested all along, we have to create some meaningful work, some opportunity for people to do things, to retrain and rehabilitate. The minister has cut those places or hasn't moved ahead in them.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's nonsense.

Mr. Martel: It's nonsense I know, but I'm telling the members that's what's happened. The minister fell flat on his face—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You're just playing politics.

Mr. Martel: —despite all his restraints at the expense of those people who could least afford it. Where fear was most rampant, where they were most susceptible to what was going on, that's the group he attacked. He moved in on that; the government moved in on hospitals. I want to say the Tories moved in to show they were tough and could bring it into line after they blew \$1 billion last year to try to win an election. That just didn't cut any ice with the people in Ontario. I want to tell the Tories they didn't believe them not one jot.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What are you trying to do? You're trying to hurt the very people we want to help.

Mr. Martel: I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I'd like to go to an election on these issues because I have just finished a questionnaire. The intriguing thing about it was the people hammered the hell out of the Tories when it came to hospital cutbacks and so on; they really did. They thought—the public; the people who answered questionnaires—that the Tories were sick. They fell flat on their faces and now they've got to find another one.

As the Premier (Mr. Davis) said, he's got to have an emotional issue. All the claptrap he spouts about the people not wanting an election; the Minister of Government Services (Mrs. Scrivener) flaps about not wanting an election; the leader of the Liberal Party says he doesn't want an election. Let me say that if the Premier could find an issue tomorrow to go to the polls on, he'd be there and he wouldn't care what the people wanted, what it cost or anything. He'd call it. He hasn't found the issue yet.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's more irresponsible nonsense coming from you.

Mr. Martel: That's precisely what would happen. As the Premier said, Mr. Speaker—
[12:30]

Mr. Mackenzie: Do you want to place a bet on that? Do you want to make book on that?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Sudbury East will ignore the interjections and continue.

Mr. Martel: I want to say that we are ready for an election, and we will do it on this budget if the Liberals have the courage to support us.

Mr. Gaunt: Mr. Speaker, I want to identify myself with the usual felicitations that

have been expressed to you and to the Deputy Speaker on the excellent manner in which you conduct the proceedings of this House. I certainly understand and appreciate the difficulty you have from time to time, but I say under sometimes trying circumstances the job is well done.

As far as the budget is concerned, I don't know what one can say about the budget other than that it doesn't come to grips with the basic problems that we have in this province. Certainly it doesn't come to grips with the problem of unemployment. It doesn't come to grips with the big deficits we have been experiencing in this province over the past number of years, which in turn are fuelling the fires of inflation and causing extra pressure in the economy in so far as inflation is concerned.

When one has a drop from about \$2 billion to about \$1.2 billion in terms of the budget deficit, I suppose that can be construed as making some progress; but certainly the progress in that respect is very limited indeed and indicates that the government really hasn't learned its lesson from the 1975 provincial election.

As far as the budget is concerned, it certainly doesn't do very much for the dairy producers who stormed Ottawa yesterday. While I don't condone for a moment some of the things that happened there, I think it certainly does reflect their anger and frustration at what has happened at the initiation of the federal government and compounded by the provincial government.

Mr. Eaton: Be careful where you put the blame.

Mr. Gaunt: The Milk Marketing Board has indicated that, as far as it is concerned, it is prepared to help in some areas. I believe they have come out with a policy of buying market share quota at three cents a pound and selling it back to those in the greatest need for two cents a pound. Presumably those in the greatest need would be the new producers, and I understand there are some 400 in the province who have been in the business less than a year. I presume that those people would be construed as being those in the greatest need, and hence would be eligible for this kind of assistance.

The one question that remains in my mind is whether or not there is going to be enough market share quota to fulfil the requirements of those new producers, given the fact that many of them have greatly increased their herds and are really in the position of estab-

lishing a new base, although they really hadn't had time to do so. They were just moving up to that point when all of a sudden, this new policy was announced. They have been cut off in midstream, as it were, which is certainly unfortunate and is certainly a reflection of the method by which the province undertook to encourage producers to increase their production with obviously no long-term guarantee that, having done so, they would be assured of a reasonable market for their produce. Need I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that the province came in with its IMPIP loans to fulfil a purpose, which purpose was fulfilled in part—that is to obtain a greater share of the national quota.

We were losing market share quota to other provinces simply because we weren't filling it. In order to overcome that problem the province came in with its IMPIP loan programme, which has served a purpose but at the same time has left producers out on a limb—at least many producers — because while they were being encouraged to improve their production on the one hand, the new federal policy came in and they've now been placed in a very difficult financial position indeed as far as some of these producers are concerned.

Interestingly enough, I understand the Milk Marketing Board is going to enter into buying and selling Group I Pool quota as well, which is a new undertaking for it and one that I certainly support. I can recall back to the days when we were debating the provisions of the Hennessey report. That was back in 1965 or thereabouts. One of the controversial items at that time was whether or not quotas should be salable. There were very firm arguments presented on both sides of the question but the Ontario Milk Marketing Board came down with the decision after much deliberation and much study abroad that the best programme, the best method by which to proceed was to come in with salable quotas, which would be negotiable.

That policy has pertained from that point until now. Now the board is actually in the business, as of this point, of buying and selling Group I Pool quota. They've now set a maximum price at which these quotas can be traded. At least it's a movement in the direction toward non-negotiable, non-salable quotas, which I presume perhaps will be effected in the future—hopefully not the too-distant future.

I want to turn to another matter that causes some concern because it is an important matter and I think it will become even more so in the days and years ahead.

That has to do with gravel extractions and the fact that the government at the moment really doesn't have any long-term policy with respect to that matter.

As an example, I want to use the case of Lake Ontario Cement Ltd. and TCG Materials Ltd. This is a matter which has been dealt with on an appeal filed by these two companies to the OMB to have a zoning change made from rural agricultural to EI, which is extractive industry, to permit the establishment and operation of a sand and gravel pit to be established in Erin township just outside the village. The township refused to make the change, hence the appeal to the OMB.

Strong objections to the application were registered by Erin and Erin Township Concerned Citizens' Association and several other ratepayer groups. The hearing was rather extended; I believe it went on four weeks. There were 159 exhibits, with expert witnesses being called to support the causes on both sides of the issue.

I believe the total acreage involved by both applications is something in the neighbourhood of 600 acres. Obviously, if this were allowed, we would be talking about another Caledon operation extending over many years, perhaps up to 50 or even longer.

To make a long story short, the OMB found in favour of the applicants even though the board ignored the water table problems and to a certain extent the noise problems; although the board said in its decision that if the permits were granted to both companies, the truck traffic for area residents would become unbearable.

Essentially I think what the OMB did in its decision was to force Erin township into rezoning the land south and east of the village of Erin for extractive use. Interestingly enough, this is the fastest growing and most densely populated area in all of the Guelph and suburban planning area. That being the case, one can readily understand what a gravel operation of this kind of magnitude in a basically rural and residential area could do to that community.

As a result of the OMB decision the concerned citizens' association has appealed to the cabinet. The only point I would make at this juncture is that I hope the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) does not issue the permit for these operations under the Pits and Quarries Act until the decision by the cabinet has been made. Otherwise I think he's prejudging the decision.

I understand that the minister has made a comment or has made an indication to some of the citizens in and around Erin that he intends to issue the permits pending the decision. I think that action in a sense pre-judges the decision of the cabinet and I hope that the minister would withhold on that point.

The appellants have asked that the appeal be considered on a number of bases, the most important of which, I believe, is that the Ontario Municipal Board decision be reversed and the land declared zoned for agricultural use. That's what those lands are now and the council and the concerned citizens of that area are taking the position that it should remain as agriculturally zoned land.

As alternatives they ask that the Ontario Municipal Board be directed to hold public hearings to determine the impact of the two gravel operations located in close proximity of each other and to the village of Erin; that the OMB be directed to hold public hearings into the merits of the two appeals on the basis that the official plan does not designate the lands for potential gravel pit areas; and that TCG and Premier be directed to enter into development agreements as a condition of the rezoning. Those are really the points covered in the appeal to the cabinet.

There is, however, a broader issue. It is estimated that there are 60 to 70 million tons of aggregate in the proposed pits. According to the Proctor-Redfern report there are 990 million tons of aggregate in the entire township. With that kind of reserve it seems to me that it would be absolutely essential for the government to do an inventory of all gravel deposits in the province. Once that is done we should put these deposits on a timetable by which they can be extracted.

In this way some rational approach is brought into the operation of pits and quarries and it removes the haphazard, helter-skelter development of pits and quarries. I suggest that for the long-term benefit of good planning and certainly from the environmental standpoint, this kind of thing is absolutely necessary and will become even more so in the future.

[12:45]

I think it's only sensible that we catalogue our reserves of sand and gravel in this province and then put them on a timetable so that we don't get the private sector coming in, almost overnight, and saying,

"That land is owned by us. We are running out of deposits elsewhere, and we want to open it up." That has tremendous ramifications for the communities involved, it has tremendous ramifications for the planning process and, generally speaking, it is very disruptive to both. In the long-term interests of the citizens and of these various communities where there are gravel deposits, I think that kind of inventory-taking and timetabling should be undertaken as quickly as possible.

There's one other matter with which I want to deal, and it concerns the government's programme of embarking on closing arenas, at least in my part of the province. I really don't know what the government has against our part of the province, other than the fact that most of us vote Liberal—

Hon. Mr. Meen: That is enough.

Mr. Gaunt: That may be enough. That's what we are suspicious of.

Mr. Eaton: The way to find out is to change.

Mr. Gaunt: In any event, we went through this rather trying and difficult period in which the government was trying to close some of the hospitals in the area. Now we have got that one cooled out, at least for a period—with the help of the courts, I might add, for which we are grateful. We will take any help we can get in that kind of situation.

Mr. Martel: You could have voted for our amendment.

Mr. Gaunt: If we had voted for your amendment, it wouldn't have kept the hospitals open.

Mr. Martel: Sure it would.

Mr. Gaunt: We weren't voting on that. We were voting on whether we would have an election or not. It had nothing to do with the hospitals in that respect. In any event, let me get back to the arena closings. I want to talk about the arena closings today—

Mr. Worton: Does the NDP want an election on that? They are on pretty thin ice.

Mr. Gaunt: I gather they have closed about seven arenas in my part of the province; if they haven't closed them down completely, they have asked that major modifications be made to those buildings in

order to meet the standards set out in the National Building Code. Let me make it abundantly clear that I am all for safety. I hope I don't have to make that point; surely that goes without saying.

Mr. Nixon: We are right with you there, Murray.

Mr. Gaunt: I am obviously all for the inspection of the arenas to seek out any structural or other defects that make the buildings unsafe for public use. But I have to take issue with the way the programme is being implemented. I don't know what it is with the government. They seem to have the facility to take any worthwhile programme, distort it, mutilate it and completely discredit it.

Mr. Nixon: They make it expensive.

Mr. Gaunt: And make it expensive. That's what's happened with this programme. The Ministry of Labour officials inspect the buildings or ask for a report from an engineer indicating the structural condition of the building. None of these arenas seem to meet the standards, so the ministry in some instances just moves in and orders the arenas closed. Interestingly enough, these closings were ordered after the winter was over and hence the greatest danger has passed.

There are several aspects about which I want to comment in this regard. Before I go on, let me digress for a moment. One of the arenas that has been ordered to make significant alterations is an arena built only two years ago with steel underpinnings.

Mr. Good: Unbelievable.

Mr. Gaunt: If the ministry passed those plans just two years ago, how can it now come in and say that that building is not safe, or is not up to standard?

This brings in the whole question of whether or not it is proper for this government to make the National Building Code retroactive and apply it accordingly. And that is exactly what is happening. The National Building Code has been changed. And so what the government is doing is applying those standards retroactively.

What is to say that next year those amendments, or those regulations under the Code will not be changed again? In which case, the operators of arenas who have made modifications this year will then find themselves in the position of not qualifying under

the new regulations and amendments. And so we just keep going on and on and on.

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, I think this kind of situation is getting somewhat out of hand. It is costing the local communities a tremendous amount of money, when in actual fact what we need in this instance is a common-sense approach.

An hon. member: And a new government.

Mr. Good: Better check this funny farm.

Mr. McCague: Right or wrong.

Mr. Gaunt: If they are unsafe, they should be asked to modify the building and improve it structurally, so that the building is safe for public use. No question about that; I made that point initially. All I'm saying, Mr. Speaker, is that you can make the arena safe, but it doesn't have to be so strong that you could drive a Sherman tank over it. And that is what is happening.

The requirement in our area under the National Building Code is 75 lb per sq ft. That is roughly 40 to 50 in. of snow over the entire roof. And my friend from Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. McCague) would suggest, I am sure, that this would never happen.

Hon. Mr. Meen: Ever hear of a good rainstorm on top of 12 in. of snow?

Mr. Gaunt: Of course I have heard of a good rainstorm on top of 12 in. of snow.

Mr. Ferris: Ever see 40 in. of snow on top of a building?

Mr. Gaunt: But the fact of the matter is that the requirements under the National Building Code are somewhat unrealistic. If you ask any good engineer or architect, Mr. Speaker, he will tell you the same thing. I have asked a few for my own information, and they have indicated to me that they feel the requirement is unnecessary and unrealistic.

Let me get back to the points I was going to make in this respect. There are several aspects about which I wanted to comment in this regard. The first point is that to my knowledge the National Building Code is never applied retroactively—to my knowledge—but it is being applied retroactively in this case.

Mr. Good: Take it to court.

Mr. Gaunt: If the ministry wants to apply the 75 lb per sq ft, which, as I mentioned before, would sustain 40 to 50 in. of snow

over the entire roof, that's fine. But to apply it to arenas or buildings already standing, that is quite a different matter.

Is the ministry now going to come in and apply the same standard to schools and to other public buildings, or to this building? Is the ministry going to require that this building support 75 lb per sq ft in order that those who occupy the offices and this chamber can be assured of the degree of safety to which arenas are subjected?

Mr. Nixon: The place may be about to fall in.

Hon. Mr. Meen: We will let the roof fall in.

Mr. Gaunt: I doubt it very much. And I doubt very much if the Ministry of Labour will come out to the front door and put the padlock on, because it can't support that kind of weight.

Mr. Good: You don't even have insurance on this building.

Mr. Nixon: Not one cent of insurance.

Mr. Good: Fiddler on the roof, that's it.

Mr. Gaunt: The ministry's obligation insofar as existing arenas are concerned is to ensure that they are safe for use and occupancy; that the roof won't cave in with the people in the building. But the National Building Code requirements go far beyond that. The ministry takes the position that it will abide by the engineer's report on these buildings. The only thing the engineer can do is to measure the building against the National Building Code standards because otherwise the engineer is legally liable for anything that happens. Any engineer in his right mind isn't going to stick his neck out and give an honest opinion as to what is required to make the building safe. He's going to go by the National Building Code standards, thus removing any legal liability he might otherwise incur.

An engineer has told me that if that legal liability were removed, he could give an honest common sense opinion as to what has to be done to make the building safe, but under the present circumstances there is no way he can do that unless the legal liability is removed. His comment to me was that these arenas have to be safe, but they don't have to be strong enough to drive a Sherman tank over them, and that was my comment earlier.

Obviously, in my view, the legal liability on the engineer should be removed. The

final aspect of this entire problem is very important. The government does not, in my view and in the view of some legal experts with whom I have checked, and I have checked with the best legal advice I can afford, I may say, and they tell me—

Mr. Nixon: I know what that cost.

Mr. Gaunt: Which means, in effect, I checked with the hon. member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer).

Mr. Worton: That's good enough.

Mr. Gaunt: We have gone over the various sections that apply under the Industrial Safety Act. He tells me, and I concur, that the government doesn't have the right under the Industrial Safety Act to close arenas. It doesn't have the legal right under the Act to close these buildings down.

Mr. Nixon: They didn't have the right to close hospitals.

Mr. Gaunt: The power to do so under this Act is even more tenuous than it was in the case of the hospital closings, and we all know what happened there. Nevertheless, the government persists, even though it does not appear to have the legal power to do so, in ordering arenas to close down. I don't know what it is with this government. Sometimes I think they've taken leave of some of their common sense, but I don't want to dwell on that too long.

I do suggest, however, that the government undertake and search out immediately as to whether it does have the power to close these arenas. As I said before, I don't think it has. I have read the Act as a layman. One of my colleagues has gone over it as a lawyer and he has indicated that the power is not there. That being the case, I would have thought that the government would have taken the precautions to check this matter with its legal experts, but obviously it feels it can do precisely what it wants, whenever it wants and whether it has the power to do so or not.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member reaches an appropriate spot to adjourn the debate, the Chair would recognize the motion.

Mr. Gaunt: I just have another paragraph and I'm through, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Hurry up.

Mr. Ferris: We can hear you next Friday.

Mr. Gaunt: If the House would indulge, I would certainly finish up in the next minutes.

I suggest two courses of action: First of all, remove the legal liability from the engineer. This would allow him to give an honest commonsense opinion as to the safety of the building without being legally bound. I suppose the other alternative is to reduce the requirement under the National Building Code, but I realize that is going to be very difficult to do, so I suggest the first alternative as the logical approach.

Secondly, I would suggest the Ministry of Labour should stop ordering arenas to be closed down and instead work with the community which should be making the changes in their arenas to make them safer. If the proper approach is taken, communities will respond. They do, however, object to the hammer, knock-out, strong-arm approach. This arena closing has become, in my view, nothing more than a racket and should be stopped.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House, may I indicate the order of business for next week.

On Monday in the afternoon we do estimates until 5 p.m., and according to the arrangements they will be the estimates of the Ministry of Education; and from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. we have the private members' hour, a very historic debate in which you, Mr. Speaker, will be engaged, I understand.

Mr. Acting Speaker: No.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Are you not doing that?

Mr. Acting Speaker: No, it was changed.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Is it the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald)? I think his motion, then; but that will be equally historic, I would think.

We will sit in the evening on Monday. May I repeat we are sitting Monday night, when we will do legislation; hopefully look after the legislation which now is in committee of the whole House, that is the legislation standing under the second order, being Bills 54, 55, 64 and 87. We will be in session Monday evening from 8 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Good: In that order?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes, I think we will simply call them in the order they stand in committee.

On Tuesday, in the afternoon and evening we will do legislation. Tuesday, June 8, there will be legislation afternoon and evening. May I indicate we will proceed, at that time, with second readings of Bills 84, 90 and 96.

Wednesday, of course, is committee day.

On Thursday, both afternoon and evening, we will do estimates; and it is my understanding that at that time we will be starting the estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

There is no sitting on Friday; the House will not sit Friday morning.

Mr. Edighoffer: The roof is going to fall in.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.

APPENDIX

(See page 2974)

An answer to a question was tabled as follows:

112. Ms. Bryden—Inquiry of the ministry: When will the Premier fulfil his promise, made in the Legislature on April 5, 1976, (Hansard p. 1002) to provide the House with a report on the cost of the social function at the Art Gallery in February, 1976, provided by the government for the Consular Corps?

Answer by the Premier:

The consular representatives are accredited to the government of Canada. However, the Toronto Consular Corps' principal interests are focused on the Province of Ontario. The foreign governments having consular posts in Toronto do so in consideration of the fact that Ontario is a very important economic and political entity in Canada. There are 54 foreign governments represented in Toronto.

It is traditional diplomatic practice that the government receives the Consular Corps at a reception once a year. Such a reception was held this year at the Art Gallery of Ontario on Feb. 16. The total cost was \$2,393.86.

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Birch, Hon. M.; Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Scarborough East PC)
Bounsall, E. J. (Windsor-Sandwich NDP)
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Bryden, M. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Monday, June 7, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON DAIRY INDUSTRY

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement on some comments on the recent report relating to the dairy industry.

I was interested, perplexed, and frankly, angry at Mr. Trudeau's comments on the Betty Kennedy show which were later reported in last Saturday's *Globe and Mail*. In this newspaper the Prime Minister blamed provincial mismanagement for dairy surpluses.

An hon. member: You are complaining?

Hon. W. Newman: What a switch from Mr. Trudeau's earlier comments to the House of Commons on Sept. 4, 1973—

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: What did he say in 1971?

Hon. W. Newman: I quote: "Increased food production in Canada, encouraged by measures to bring more stability and security of prices to producers—"

Mr. Kerrio: The statute of limitations has run out.

Hon. W. Newman: "—strikes at the heart of high food prices now being faced by consumers."

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: To continue:

Therefore, the government is prepared to put in place measures such as higher support payments for agricultural commodities, advanced payments on a wide range of agricultural products, commodity-oriented government-producer financed income stabilization programmes and such other measures as might evolve after the September conference.

The September conference referred to by Mr. Trudeau is the federal-provincial ministerial meeting on food production policies held in Ottawa on Sept. 27, 1973, and explicitly convened by Mr. Whelan with direct orders from Mr. Trudeau.

At that conference the Ontario government presented a policy paper which stated categorically, and I quote:

The Ontario position is that the several governments of Canada, provincial and federal, should encourage an increase in agricultural production in Canada, provided that producers receive guarantees that this increased production will not impinge upon their incomes.

The paper went on to say:

If governments take over-active steps to stimulate production and then, in the absence of realistic price guarantees, prices fall toward historically unattractive levels, governments will quite properly be held responsible by Canadian farmers. We welcome the Prime Minister's comment that his government will put in place higher support levels for agricultural products.

Ontario believes that the producers should be encouraged to expand production to fill assured markets, whether they be domestic or export, but this production should be geared to provide the security and confidence so urgently needed by the industry.

After all that, Mr. Trudeau has the nerve to suggest provincial mismanagement for dairy surpluses.

An hon. member: What a shame.

Hon. W. Newman: Our IMPIP was implemented in 1973 because the federal government was trying to make the Canadian dairy industry as nearly self-sufficient as possible, and the provinces were responding to its calls for increased production. However, as Ontario's output increased, part of our market share quota was automatically transferred to other provinces annually.

One fact that Mr. Trudeau fails to realize is that even with our IMPIP programme, our milk output was only 97 per cent of what

Ottawa has asked us to produce in the 1975-1976 dairy year.

Yes, the dairy industry is facing problems, but we must work in a spirit of co-operation to resolve the present problem. Let Mr. Trudeau get the facts straight before he comments on a subject which he knows little about and should better leave to his Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Whelan.

FOREST FIRES

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, before oral questions, I wonder, in view of the seriousness of the fire hazard in northern Ontario, if perhaps the Chairman of Cabinet (Mr. Brunelle) could give us a report in the absence of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) as to the occurrences there.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I noticed the Minister of Natural Resources was out in the lobby talking to his deputy about that very subject. I expect he will be in shortly.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps it could be raised as a question—

Mr. Reid: Could we revert to statements when the minister comes in?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. Or perhaps it might come up in a question addressed to the minister when he arrives, if he does not have a statement prepared.

Mr. Lewis: Why take the time of question period?

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, due to the importance of the whole situation, I would ask for unanimous consent of the House to revert to statements when the minister comes in.

Mr. Speaker: Do we have such unanimous consent if the minister has something to say on this? I am sure he will have. Thank you.

Oral questions.

GRASSY NARROWS RESERVE

Mr. Lewis: A question first for the Solicitor General, if I may: Can he report on his espionage inquiry into Grassy Narrows?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I received a report just about one minute ago; I haven't had an opportunity of looking it over, but I will do so now.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, since a charge of sabotage was put, involving a

major reserve in the northwest, could he possibly just read—that's only on one page; I imagine it clarifies it pretty easily.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I would like the opportunity of reading it myself first. I don't know who made the charge of sabotage. It wasn't made by me—

Mr. Lewis: The Minister of Natural Resources.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I want to read this over. It's a police report and I will read it.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, may I have the agreement of the House to revert to ministerial statements when the minister has read his report?

Mr. Speaker: If the minister has a statement to make.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I don't intend to make any statement at this point. It may warrant a statement tomorrow or at some time in the future, but I have no intention of making a statement on it today.

Mr. Lewis: If it's a whole page, suppose the minister reads it and I will come back to it.

STOUFFVILLE DUMP

Mr. Lewis: Can I ask the Minister of the Environment what happened in the case of the Stouffville dump and York Sanitation, which initially caused the government so much anxiety in giving the dump the right to pursue its processes? Now the ministry finds in two separate tests that in fact there are polluted wells and that information is not shared with the public but is shared only in private with the council. Can the minister explain that?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: As the hon. member knows, there was a lengthy hearing dealing with that site. The board approved the establishment of the dump, based on the satisfying of certain conditions that were laid down by the board. One of the conditions was the concern of leaching from the dump which may affect some private wells. There was some indication of some contamination. That is being held up until the operator of that facility can satisfy the ministry.

I'm not aware that this information isn't public, Mr. Speaker; I assumed it was public information. It's referred to in the report and certainly the conditions laid down by the board are public information.

If there are some specific wells owned by people living in that area who are concerned about whether or not they are affected I'd be happy to get that information.

Mr. Lewis: Is the minister not aware that within the last 10 days senior environmental officer Paul Isles met with Mayor Gordon Ratcliff and members of the council in secret and revealed that tests have shown aquifer pollution in two wells tested by the ministry, and that this information had been kept private for a month? Indeed, he may have met with the council almost a month ago. I'd like to know when the tests will be made public and what action the ministry will take.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether or not they met in secret. I imagine it would be an informal meeting—

Mr. Lewis: The council admits it.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —in somebody's office, possibly. I don't know if they met with the full council or not. There have been ongoing meetings between my ministry and the representatives of the council to find out whether or not they wish to have that site operating and plan to meet our conditions. If the hon. member wants a report on the wells I'd be happy to bring it to the Legislature.

Mr. Lewis: Thank you.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT CLAIMS FUND

Mr. Lewis: A question, if I may, to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Can he comment today on the Marisa Zorsitto case, the jury award of \$349,000 because of an automobile accident and the motor accident indemnity fund providing a maximum of \$50,000? Can he discuss the government's position on this kind of unhappy situation?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, of course, I think everybody sympathizes with the very tragic circumstances the young lady finds herself in. The statute provides for a maximum of \$50,000 out of the fund. I would prefer not to deal with it in a very haphazard way but to see whether or not there are alternatives whereby this one unfortunate circumstance can be dealt with, rather than saying, "Yes, we can pay more." We can't, under the law. The law limits it to \$50,000; I'm sure every member is aware of that.

I would like to be able to put together some of the thoughts there may be on the

subject—those appearing in the press and elsewhere—to see whether or not, first of all, the young lady's situation can be dealt with and whether similar situations in the future can be dealt with in a more orderly rather than an ad hoc fashion.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary, if I may: Given the clear injustice of this case and the insufficiency of the fund to deal with situations like this, why is the minister's philosophic rigidity preventing him from recognizing that if there were compulsory automobile insurance in Ontario, appropriately enforced and administered, with a high enough minimum, this kind of case could never occur?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to point out to the hon. Leader of the Opposition that philosophical flexibility would not result in anything more in any other province, regardless of the political stripe of its government.

Mr. Lewis: Come on!

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The maximum being paid under compulsory insurance is \$50,000 unless the driver wishes to obtain more. That's open to any driver in this province, too. I don't see that the philosophic rigidity—

Mr. Lewis: Change the minimums.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: —the hon. member refers to has any bearing whatsoever. Again, I would like to say that I don't want to reject this proposition out of hand but I certainly can't ad hoc it either. I think we have to take a careful look at it.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: In the particular case being referred to, is the minister aware that the \$50,000 maximum will hardly even pay for this very unfortunate person's medical and rehabilitative expenses, to say nothing of the grave difficulty she now faces for the rest of her life in attempting to carry on her profession? Can he not bring in an increased limit to the fund and make it retroactive to cover this case or have some other means of handling the situation?

[2:15]

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I don't want it to appear as though nobody on this side of the House has any sympathy whatsoever for the situation the young lady finds herself in but, again, I should point out that this is an isolated incident. To change the fund—which could be done, of course—to suit one particular case of an injustice might not be the best course of action. It may very well

be necessary to deal with it as an individual case.

But I would like to point out that if we were to raise the fund or to impose compulsory insurance with amounts of \$100,000 or \$200,000 or \$300,000 or \$500,000, there would always be a case of a judgement higher than that. There was a judgement recently in Ottawa of \$1 million, and the question is whether or not the public is ready to pay more for the isolated instances.

We recognize the injustice to an individual, but whether or not that creates a situation whereby the whole system has to be changed is another matter. We are certainly sympathetic to that case.

Mr. Singer: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Quite apart from the ad hoc-ery that the minister is talking about, isn't he of an opinion—inflation being such and cost of everything being such—that the time has now come to raise the \$50,000 limit right across the board, both for the fund and for the minimum amount, and make it at least \$100,000, and perhaps more, depending on what the select committee might later advise? Would the minister agree that \$50,000, in light of the circumstances existing today, is far too low?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I would probably agree to that in principle, and I'm pleased that the chairman of the select committee has relieved us of the responsibility of waiting for the report.

Mr. Singer: Bring it up to \$100,000.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Certainly, I think it is worthy of consideration. Again, the question of the additional premium is one that we would have to consider and whether the public is prepared to pay, because somebody is going to have to pay for the additional coverage. The other aspect, of course, is that the higher that amount, the more likely the courts are to make higher awards, and it becomes a snowballing effect. However, I think we can take a look at that and deal with it on its merits.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary, if I may, in two short parts: To avoid the snowballing effect the minister describes, just how many drivers are covered by the motor accident indemnity fund, and can the minister later make a statement to the House as to how he might make up the discrepancy between the \$50,000 presently available under the law and the \$350,000 which the court awarded?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I haven't made any commitment at all to make up the difference between the \$50,000—

Mr. Lewis: Well, the minister said he wanted to talk about it.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I said we would like to look at the circumstances to see whether or not some relief can be given to the individual involved. Whether or not that means paying out of public funds the full amount of the award might very well be something that I would want to give second thoughts to.

Certainly, the number of drivers who contribute to the motor vehicle accident claims fund is less, in our view, than three per cent of the drivers on the road in Ontario. So we have more than 97 per cent of our drivers who are insured, but they may be under-insured, too, and that's another point that we would have to look at. I was hoping, of course, that the select committee would deal with that in its deliberations. But if it is an urgent matter that has to be dealt with, then I'm sure the government will do that.

Mr. Lewis: Can we revert to the Minister of Natural Resources? I have one question.

Mr. Speaker: I might point out to the hon. Minister of Natural Resources that there has been a request that perhaps he might be in a position to make a statement about the forest fire situation. If that is so, he has the unanimous consent of the House to do so.

FOREST FIRES

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I regret to inform the House that the situation continues to be very grave and very serious, particularly in northwestern Ontario. I believe I referred to it on the weekend as an explosive situation. At the present time, we have 165 fires raging in northwestern Ontario. There were 65 new ones yesterday. We were able, with our forces, to extinguish 32. As a matter of comparison, this year we have had 928 fires to date, and the normal for this time of the year is about 400—so you can see the seriousness of the situation from those figures.

The weather conditions are encouraging. There is a weather system north of Red Lake causing some cloud formation. There was very little precipitation in the northwest last night—more electrical storms. At the present time about 300,000 acres of prime forest land are burning in northwestern Ontario. One further aircraft has gone down, following my report of last week, at White Cliff. No fatality. Two

of our staff are in the Sioux Lookout district hospital with minor injuries.

The community giving us some concern at the present time is Pickle Lake. There is a fire of about 12,000 acres just south of Pickle Lake, and that is receiving our full effort and is a top priority with our staff at the present time. Rounds Lake was in danger for a short period of time, but I have to admit and I am thankful that the federal government has assisted us in bringing a special force to that particular community, along with our own forces, and we've been able to hold the fires in around that community.

Allan Water has been evacuated and 70-odd people have been brought to Armstrong. A number of summer cottages have been destroyed in the Allan Water area; we haven't got the exact details at this time.

I might say we are receiving some tremendous co-operation from other jurisdictions. Alberta is sending us nine 28-men crews that are completely qualified and experienced in firefighting, along with their equipment. They will be arriving today. Also, from Boise, Idaho, we're receiving some infrared camera equipment and some mobile weather detecting units which will assist us in combatting the serious situation in northwestern Ontario.

On the weekend I asked for the co-operation of the public at large. My own ministry has curtailed all work activities in the forests of northwestern Ontario such as tree planting and silviculture programmes. We have cancelled temporarily any roadbuilding programmes. We have asked the private sector to do likewise. We have had excellent co-operation to date from the tourist industry. The indications from the woods industry are that we will receive that same co-operation.

At the present time, we have sufficient access to firefighters and that particular resource. When the sawmills and the logging industry shut down, this will give us further ample supply, so I don't see any particular shortage in that respect. If we do not get the co-operation to the fullest extent with regard to the curtailing of forest operations, I indicated yesterday at Dryden that I'm prepared to enact further stricter measures and controls under section 23 of the Forest Fires Prevention Act, but I hope we won't have to do this. It will depend on the co-operation of the public in that particular area. The time and effort that are spent taking people out of the bush in hazardous areas are causing us some concern. As an example, in the Sioux Lookout district alone on Saturday, we spent more time evacuating people and looking for people who we knew were in that general area than we did in actually

combatting the fire. We think that with the co-operation and the continued effort of our staff and the industry, both the tourist industry and the logging industry, we can come to grips with it if we get a little rain.

Mr. Reid: May I ask a question for clarification, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: There will be an opportunity for questions in a moment, please. I judge the statement to have been about four minutes long.

GRASSY NARROWS RESERVE

Mr. Lewis: I would like to ask the Solicitor General whether, having looked at his one-page statement, he is able to establish sabotage at Grassy Narrows?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Yes, I'm prepared to read this report with one or two admissions—omissions.

Mr. Lewis: Selective editing, eh?

Mr. Moffatt: Admissions?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Not admissions—omissions. I want to leave out the name of a youth involved and what the next step may be. It's a report from Inspector Douglas Civil "re: Freezer and Fish, Grassy Narrows Indian Reserve":

On June 1, 1976, I was assigned to investigate the loss of several thousand pounds of fish contained in the freezer on the Grassy Narrows Indian Reserve located 60 miles north of Kenora. Both the freezer and fish were supplied by the Ontario government in the "Fish for Food" programme due to the pollution by mercury of the English-Wabigoon River system.

On May 31, 1976, Stephen Lewis, leader of the New Democratic Party, claimed that the freezer in question had not been functional since mid-May. Lewis said that Natural Resources personnel failed to respond to a complaint made by the reserve. The Hon. Leo Bernier, Minister of Natural Resources denied that his personnel had received a complaint and [said] that the freezer had been deliberately sabotaged. Bernier requested police investigation through the Solicitor General, Hon. John MacBeth.

My investigation revealed that no report of a non-functional freezer had been received by Natural Resources, or the freezer installer, Northwind Refrigeration Co., Kenora. This information comes from Chief

Joseph Quoquat, Grassy Narrows, and council. Investigation revealed that the two compressor switches were in the tripped position. The two fan switches and one louvre switch were in the off position. The above would indicate that there was no ventilation in the compressor room; therefore, the compressor motor would over-heat—

I'm having some trouble. The police used a machine to send this through and reading it is not that easy.

—and short the breaker switch into the tripped position as found. Hugh Murray, of Northwind Refrigeration, verifies the above findings and I inspected the freezer with Natural Resources personnel.

On Friday, June 5, 1976, [This is where I'm leaving out the name and date of birth] aged 13 years, admitted that on the evening of May 22 he broke and entered the freezer. The youth played with the switches for the fan, turning them on and off. He would throw stones into the fan blades and watch them be thrown about. He also played with the light switches, leaving all switches in the off position when he left the building, locking the door that he had slipped. A statement has been obtained from [so-and-so] in the presence of his uncle. [There is a little description of the uncle.]

I should point out that the fish were tested on May 18, 1976, by Health and Welfare Canada. The fish were found to be unfit for human consumption. A letter dated May 28, 1976, from Dr. T. G. Kershaw, programme medical officer, 34 North Cumberland St., Thunder Bay, verifies this fact.

[So-and-so] acted alone in this situation and did so without realizing the seriousness of his act or the consequences. The youth entered the building to play with the equipment and still fails to realize the connection between the fans and the compressor units. A total of 7,500 lb of whitefish has been disposed of from the freezer in question.

Then there was another paragraph in connection with the reference to the Crown attorney.

Mr. Lewis: I start with a point of personal privilege, if I may, Mr. Speaker, to say that I regret I accepted the information given to me that MNR was phoned if, in fact, there was no such phone call made. Having said that, I now want to seek certain points of clarification which, frankly, stun me a little.

Did the minister say that on May 18, 1976, Health and Welfare Canada said that the fish was unfit for consumption?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: The report stated:

I should point out that the fish were tested on May 18, 1976, by Health and Welfare Canada. The fish were found to be unfit for human consumption. A letter dated May 28, 1976, from Dr. T. G. Kershaw, programme medical officer, 34 North Cumberland St., Thunder Bay, verifies this fact.

Mr. Lewis: If the minister thinks I was bewildered when I was up there he doesn't know how I feel now. I presume there will be a further statement?

May I ask the minister to speak to his colleague, the Minister of Natural Resources, or the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) and try to clear up for us why no one was told or knew at a meeting on May 20, at which National Health and Welfare was represented, that the fish was unfit for human consumption and nothing was said in the presence of all the Indians gathered? Second, am I right in having heard the minister say that the number of pounds of fish destroyed was in excess of 7,000?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Seven thousand five hundred.

Mr. Lewis: Seven thousand five hundred; so that, in fact, what the Indians said was valid on that occasion? Finally, do I take it that the young boy involved was not, in the minister's mind, guilty of sabotage but rather one of those unhappy and destructive adolescent pranks which occur from time to time? Is that a fair distinction?

Mr. MacDonald: But it was all after the fish had spoiled.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I think that's fair. They suggested here that the young lad didn't know the consequences of what he was doing. "He would throw stones into the fan blades and watch them be thrown about. He also played with the light switches leaving all switches in the off position." Somewhere else there's reference to that.

Mr. Lewis: By way of one quick supplementary: This isn't much solace or salvation but I take it that the boy's prank was inconsequential anyway, since the fish were unfit for human consumption on May 18, several days before his act of delinquency?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I'm not prepared to say that because I don't think this report gives us the date of the first time he went in to play with the fan in that way. I

don't think that date is given so I'm not so sure it was inconsequential.

Mr. Lewis: The minister has a mess over there and he is going to have to clear it up at some point.

[2:30]

RADIOACTIVITY AT PORT HOPE

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Regarding the soil from Port Hope and the possibility of putting it in Base Borden, what studies have been undertaken of the Base Borden area, in view of the sandy soil and the inevitability of leaching action into two of southern Ontario's best trout streams, to support the minister's reported statement a week or two ago that the base would be an ideal site to dump radioactive waste?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, regarding Camp Borden, as far as I am aware there hasn't been any testing or checking or analysing of that particular location or that particular camp as far as its being a disposal site is concerned. All I was attempting to say, indicated in the discussions with the press after my statement in the Legislature, was that this type of site might be ideal for the disposal of radioactive waste.

First of all, it is owned by the federal government, and it is the federal government's responsibility to dispose of this radioactive waste. It is a large tract of land, usually with a great deal of empty space adjoining the buildings and hangars and the barracks and things of that kind, and therefore it could be ideal from the point of view of being isolated from the public generally and from housing generally. But as far as specifying that the site was acceptable, I had no intention of doing that.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, as Minister of the Environment, doesn't the minister feel it would be wise to get some advice about aspects other than simply distance from housing? And could the minister tell us please where in relation to the Mad and the Nottawasaga rivers and the Minesing Swamp and the village of Angus his site was located? Is it not the minister's job to make sure that the public understands that the dumping of radioactive fill requires more than just physical distance from houses, and that soil conditions and streams are probably the most important aspect?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member has had a great deal of

correspondence and possibly even a telephone call or two since that statement was made. Certainly we satisfy ourselves before a site is acceptable and designated for disposal of waste of any kind. As I just said to the hon. member, that was used as an example. There are hundreds of such sites across this country owned by the federal government that were used for armed forces training, and the point I wanted to make was that such a site is owned by the federal government and, therefore, it doesn't require costly acquisition or expropriation of land in some other way.

WATER POLLUTION

Mr. S. Smith: Another question of the Minister of the Environment on an unrelated topic, Mr. Speaker: Could the minister provide us with the most recent findings concerning the testing of municipally treated water for the presence of chloro-organic compounds, particularly chloroform and the like, especially in view of the recent report from the United States indicating that birth defects may be caused by pollutants of this nature?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I am sorry, I didn't hear the first part. Is the member talking about water purification plants?

Mr. S. Smith: Yes—the chloro-organic compounds; chloroform in the water. As the minister knows, the level is very high in Brantford and certain other areas in the province.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I'll get that information. I am not aware of any problem as far as our own filtration or purification plants are concerned. Our water is tested at these plants as being acceptable for drinking purposes and I would assume there is no problem. However, I will get that information.

Mr. S. Smith: Just by way of supplementary, is the minister aware that Belleville has, it seems, topped the province in chloroform counts, and is he aware that in a recent article on May 31, reprinted from the Washington Star, chloroform was directly linked with cancer and with birth defects in several American cities? Perhaps he would like to look into this and report to us about that?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, it is always a dangerous thing to relate existing circumstances with respect to a plant in Ontario with some article that is written in the United States. The cause of chloroform in water may be as the hon. member relates, but the question of clean drinking water is a very sensitive thing. I think the hon. mem-

ber should be careful before he alleges there are any problems in any community in Ontario.

Mr. S. Smith: Yes, I will be careful. I am still hoping the minister will give an answer.

SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT SURVEY

Mr. S. Smith: I have a question of the Minister of Education, following up on the question in estimates asked by my colleague, the member for London South (Mr. Ferris) on Thursday. Given the rather expensive nature of the interface study being conducted under the auspices of his ministry, how can the minister have confidence that the standards being tested represent a meaningful average for the secondary school population, when there is reason to believe that a certain group among the school population is simply choosing not to bother to take these tests and the sample may well be skewed with those who are more interested in achievement and more inclined toward this form of testing?

Hon. Mr. Wells: First of all, as I said the other night during the estimates when my friend was not present, this is a very extensive research study that is going on.

Mr. S. Smith: I am sure the Premier was present at the time.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: My goodness, you are testy.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It's being done by competent researchers and they know their business better than you or I know the research business. I'm sure if there is something happening that is going to skewer the study, then that will not go ahead. I have confidence they will do it in such a way that the results they present will be meaningful and that we will be able to draw some conclusions from them. I don't think I can say any more than that. I'm not personally running the study; it's being done by three groups of competent researchers.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, would the minister assure the House that he will kindly contact these researchers, as we have done, and find out from them whether they are concerned that this expensive study might show nothing, because of such a bias, and report the results of that inquiry to the House?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am kind of amazed, if the member has been in contact with these

researchers and they've reported this to him, that we, who are supposedly hiring them, have not been alerted to this fact. I think they probably have alerted us to the fact that they may be having certain problems, but all I would have to say is I think the onus should be on them to report to us.

Mr. S. Smith: So the minister won't report to the House. He's invested in interface.

BROWNDALE OPERATIONS

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Attorney General: Can the minister assure us that the OPP investigation into Browndale will be reported to this House sometime before we rise for the summer recess, and can he explain why the OPP has not simply gone in and taken the figures it requires to carry out its investigation? Why do we have to wait at the pleasure of Debbie Brown?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I have not had a recent report in relation to the investigation into Browndale, part of the reason being in respect to certain of my responsibilities last week in Ottawa. What I would endeavour to do is obtain for the leader of the Liberal Party some information in respect to what stage the investigation is in and as to whether or not it is reasonable to assume there will be any report made to the Legislature before the Legislature rises. I simply can't answer the question at this time, but hopefully I'll be able to do so within the next day or two.

AID TO NORTHERN ONTARIO FARMERS

Mr. Angus: A question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food: As his colleague, the Minister of Natural Resources, will tell him, the climatic conditions in northwestern Ontario are very severe and have led to a situation of almost crisis proportions to the farmers, particularly dairy farmers in Thunder Bay. Is the minister aware that they have only approximately two weeks' supply of feed left for the cattle? Would he investigate the matter and table a report to the Legislature as to what emergency measures he will take to protect their investments?

Hon. W. Newman: I'm very aware of the problems in northwestern Ontario and the extreme drought conditions that have created some problems for the agricultural community up there. I'm also aware of the fact that we do have a northern Ontario fund, which is allocated to the various farmers in

the areas and which, if I remember correctly, is somewhere over \$400,000. Certainly we realize that if the drought continues there's going to be a serious problem for the farmers up there. I'm not going to get a lengthy report, but I will get a report on it.

Mr. Angus: Supplementary: Would it be possible for the minister's staff to meet with the farmers in the area within the week to ascertain how serious the problem may be, so that before they do run out of feed they can have some brought in?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, my staff are always available for meetings and I'm sure if the member contacts our office up there they'd be glad to sit down and discuss those concerns with the farmers in the area.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary: Is the minister thinking of a possible programme such as the one, I think, that had to be implemented two years ago, of flying in hay, feed and special emergency supplies? It was just prior to the election, I believe.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I think two years ago when we moved some hay into some of the areas this was because of a shortage of hay for the winter. That was the problem they were faced with at that point in time. I think there was some assistance in moving the hay. We've had the same sort of programme in the past, not in that area, but in some other areas. We look forward to the farmers meeting with our people up there and as soon as I get a report, certainly we'll look into it.

PETROLEUM PRICING REPORT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy (Mr. Timbrell), I'd like to direct a question to the Premier. Is the Premier aware that a very similar report to that of the Isbister commission was published in the Province of British Columbia, with very similar terms of reference, coming to dramatically different conclusions from those of the Isbister report? Is the Premier aware of that BC report?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of it. I must confess I wouldn't be totally surprised that with two different people you could have two different reports. If the hon. member would like to send it to me—

Mr. MacDonald: One took the facts into account and the other didn't.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —I'll make sure the Minister of Energy gets a copy of it. I'd like to read it myself.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary: In view of the dramatically different conclusions, and also in view of the Minister of Energy's statement that he's looking for public input after the fact, after the report is published, would the Premier consider having a debate in this House on the results of the Isbister commission?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure there need be a debate. I don't know whether the hon. member has spoken yet in the budget debate to express his thoughts on matters of energy, though I know he has some. I don't know whether the estimates for the Ministry of Energy have been passed, but that might be a good opportunity. However, if he would send me a copy of the report, I'll make sure the minister gets it. As I say, I'd like to see it as well.

I really think I've heard the hon. member on two or three occasions give us his views on energy, but if these need to be updated now, I'd be delighted to receive those too.

Mr. Peterson: You can hear them right now.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And I know what they are.

Mr. Mancini: Everything's a laughing matter.

TARIFF POLICY ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Mr. Hodgson: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food on the federal government's very real lack of concern for the farmers, particularly as witnessed by the recent federal budget which placed tariff burdens on fruits and vegetables—

An hon. member: Question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hodgson: —and a certain variety of meat products: What is the minister prepared to do to bring trade equity between the farmers' products and those coming into the province from outside this country? I have a very real concern, Mr. Speaker, particularly for the area that I represent. In the Holland Marsh, where the lettuce and stuff is coming on to the market, they've already lost a great deal of money on this—

An hon. member: Speech!

Mr. Speaker: I think the question has been put.

Mr. Conway: Straighten him out, Darcy.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure this House is well aware of the fact we were very much concerned about the federal budget that was brought down just recently.

Mr. Conway: Darcy thought it was a very good one.

Hon. W. Newman: We have set up a special ministerial committee regarding the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in the Province of Ontario. We've had several meetings. We've also had the Ministry of Industry and Tourism involved in our discussions because we are concerned about the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and how the Ontario farmers are being ripped off—

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: —and I say ripped off, by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, because we're still living in the 1930s as far as tariffs are concerned.

Mr. Nixon: I hear you are going to let them bring in grape concentrates.

Hon. W. Newman: To bring out this budget reducing tariffs on fruits and vegetables and on some pork products just puts an extra burden on the producers in this province.

We may talk about stabilization and saving farmlands, but I'll say this, if we don't have some equity in the border control we're going to have some real problems.

[2:45]

Mr. Conway: Go to Quebec.

Hon. W. Newman: So, we are heading up to Ottawa on June 25, the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Bennett) and I.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mancini: Why don't you go to Washington?

Mr. Hodgson: You are not concerned, eh?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There was a question asked and it is being answered.

Hon. W. Newman: The Minister of Industry and Tourism and myself are leading a delegation to Ottawa on June 25 to meet with Mr. Eugene Whelan, the Minister of Agriculture; Mr. Donald Macdonald, the Minister

of Finance; and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr.—I have forgotten his name for a moment; sorry about that.

Mr. Conway: Alvin Hamilton!

Hon. W. Newman: Anyway, we are going to meet with them in Ottawa to discuss the problems that we are faced with here in the Province of Ontario.

We are not asking for anything more than equity. We are not asking them to put a barrier around this province of ours, but it is time we got some fair treatment for the agricultural industry in the Province of Ontario as far as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is concerned.

ALLEGED OHIP FRAUDS

Mr. Mackenzie: A question to the Attorney General: Would the minister inform this House as to the status of the 12 to 15 cases of OHIP billing which Mr. Featherstone told the public accounts committee last Thursday looked like obvious cases of fraud and had been referred to the Attorney General's department but, with possibly one exception, have never come to court?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I have no information at all relating to these matters, but I will inquire from the officials in my ministry and report to the House accordingly.

Mr. Mackenzie: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Would the minister, at the same time, let us know why some of these cases go back almost two years and why the ministry officials themselves have not been informed as to the reasons for them not going to court?

Mr. Makarchuk: You don't hesitate to rap the welfare guys.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I have nothing further to add, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A final supplementary on this; the member for High Park-Swansea.

Mr. Ziemba: A supplementary for the Attorney General, Mr. Speaker: Is he considering laying charges as a result of the information that I turned over to Insp. Manneke three weeks ago?

Mr. Speaker: Does that have anything to do with this question?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: No.

Mr. Speaker: I didn't think so.

CLOSURE OF ARENAS

Mr. Gaunt: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Labour. Based on the best legal advice I can afford, I understand the government's authority to close arenas in the province under sections 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 of the Industrial Safety Act is even more tenuous than it was with the hospital closings, which basically means that the government doesn't have the authority to close arenas. Since some communities are thinking of taking legal action, would the minister consider lifting the closure orders—now winter is over and certainly the greatest danger has passed in that respect—and, as an alternative, undertake to work with the communities affected to see if the necessary improvements cannot be made by next fall, thus avoiding the heavy-handed attitude which has been undertaken by the minister?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, there has been anything but a heavy-handed attitude regarding the closing of arenas.

Mr. Smith: These guys are recidivists.

Hon. B. Stephenson: In 1969, municipalities were warned that their arenas would not, in fact, be fit for human habitation for short periods of time as a result of the lack of structural capability of their roofs.

In 1970, they were notified again. They were asked to send in engineering reports in 1971, 1972 and 1973. We requested that information because of our concern for the public safety. We did, in fact, get very little response from the municipalities. This year, in 1975 at least, at a meeting of PMLC, the municipalities suggested we send letters to the heads of all of the municipalities outlining the fact that we really were concerned and that there were certain requirements which had to be met under the Industrial Safety Act.

That Industrial Safety Act, I would remind my learned colleague, was changed last year in order to give the province the authority to close the arenas, should this situation arise. When we heard from the various municipalities, and they did submit engineering reports—and those reports supported the fact that the arenas were not worthy of being kept open under snow loads and wind loads—we simply sent out letters requesting that they close the arenas in the interest of safety.

My friend across the way knows very well, because I have had many discussions with him, that many of the arenas that have an engineers' report, saying they are capable of

withstanding a certain wind stress, may remain open until Oct. 15 of this year in order to accommodate certain summer activities which apparently are going on. We are not being heavy-handed. We are certainly trying to be charitable, but it's a little difficult to be excessively charitable when human safety is involved.

Mr. Gaunt: Supplementary: Since I can cite an example to the minister of an arena that was built only two years ago and is supported entirely by steel trusses, which seems to me to be a pretty safe construction, and still doesn't meet the standards of the National Building Code of 75 lb per square foot, I believe, does the minister not consider it somewhat unfair to apply the standards of the National Building Code retroactively?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I have great difficulty in being less concerned about the safety of the children who might play hockey in that arena than I am about the children who might play hockey in another arena. I would think that if, in fact, that building has been built within such a short span of time, it would not take much in the way of extra trussing to support that roof so that it would be safe and I am wondering if the engineer, whose report we must have within the ministry about this, has not suggested such a move.

Mr. Gaunt: Supplementary?

Mr. McKessock: Supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: I think the member for Grey was on his feet first for a supplementary.

Mr. McKessock: In view of the fact that we do take a lot of chances in this life and we know that if we reduced the speed limit to 20 miles an hour we would do away with traffic deaths, and in view of the fact that we are in a time of restraint and it's a long shot that any of these arenas will ever fall down—if there are no other alternatives—would the minister consider giving them at least five years to replace these buildings before she closes their doors?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: And pay all the damages?

Hon. B. Stephenson: We have had examples in which arenas have collapsed in this province and unfortunately we have had some examples where buildings such as arenas collapsed with loss of life. We really do not wish to repeat this when it is possible to prevent it. The Ministry of Labour has a committee set up with the Ministry of

Culture and Recreation, and we will be very happy to work with any of the municipal elected representatives who would like to discuss the possibility of supportive funding for repair or modification of their arenas, or replacement thereof.

Mr. Singer: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: This will be the final supplementary on this. They seem to be repetitive. They seem to be the same questions in different words, getting the same answers. I will allow a supplementary by the member for Wilson Heights. Perhaps he has a new thought.

Mr. Singer: I wonder if the minister would consider, as her inspectors make these reports, making available to the municipalities the corrections that would be necessary to bring them within the required standards? I would expect the local municipality often might not know what it has to do, and if it had the information from the ministry, it would be easier to go about the task of making the buildings safe.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The decisions made by the Ministry of Labour are based upon reports of engineers in the local area hired by the municipalities themselves to report on the safety of the structure. If the municipalities don't know what the reports are, I would be very much surprised, but we will most certainly ensure that they are aware of the way in which these structures do not comply with the Building Code—

Mr. Singer: And what they have to do to bring them up—that's different.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —and what might have to be done in order to bring the up to standard.

BENDED ELBOW II

Mr. McClellan: I have a question for the Attorney General. I have a copy here of "Bended Elbow, Part II," which I obtained on my recent visit to Kenora with the Leader of the Opposition. I don't know whether this has been brought to the Attorney General's attention, but in view of his comments this weekend around his desire to try to deal with the growth of racial bigotry in this province, may I ask him to study this book with a view to making recommendations to his federal counterpart and, secondly, to discuss with his colleague, the Minister of Labour, the need for a Human Rights Commission investigation into the sale and distri-

bution of this scurrilous and racist book through tourist establishments in the Kenora area?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I have not yet seen "Bended Elbow II." I have asked that a copy be obtained. I agree with the hon. member for Bellwoods that "Bended Elbow I" can be described as scurrilous and racist material, and I share his concern in relation to what can be a similar characterization of "Bended Elbow II". I certainly appreciate him sending us his copy and we will be reviewing it very carefully.

Mr. Lewis: No. 1 was moderate by comparison.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I'd ask the Attorney General—because it bothers me somewhat that he's going around making all these statements about what is racist and what is prejudiced and what isn't—can he give the House a set of guidelines or the guidelines he gave the federal people as to how he would define what is racist and biased? He's setting himself up as a judge and jury and I'd like to know what guidelines he's using.

Mr. Conway: Speak to some of the eastern Ontario members.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I gather the member for Rainy River obviously doesn't consider this a problem and obviously doesn't consider this as a matter over which to be concerned.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Let him ask a sensible question and he'll get an answer but I consider—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Reid: If that isn't the very kind of attitude that the people you're talking about—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think a more specific question would be better than a general one, during our question period. The member for—

An hon. member: Ask the member for Ottawa West (Mr. Morrow); he's got specific ideas.

Mr. Reid: I will ask him the guidelines.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Reid: Does he decide every day on what's racist and what isn't?

OHC RENT INCREASES

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, the gist of my question, I think, might cover both the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the Ministry of Housing and they'll have to decide who's to take it. Is the appropriate minister aware that up to 30,000 tenants of OHC housing have been asked to make rebates in their rents and that, given the economic conditions these people find themselves in, it's a pretty precarious situation?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the situation the hon. member's referring to, in particular the story which originated from his area of Kitchener. The position of OHC is that certainly no one will be placed in the position of having the rent inflated in order to make up any back payments. All the rents which have been or will be charged in Ontario Housing Corp. units will be on the rent-geared-to-income basis and only on that basis. Therefore, I see nothing wrong with the structure as it has been established.

Mr. Sweeney: The point I'm trying to make is that what was done on May 21 was not the fault of these people; they had no idea they were going to have to make payments back to Jan. 1. Can the minister not change the ruling of the ministry so that this thing becomes effective on May 21 and not Jan. 1? One constituent of mine has to pay back \$63 a month for the next six months; he simply can't afford it because he's a low income earner. I don't think the members of this House were aware of that.

Mr. Warner: Why did you vote for it anyway?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The particular case the hon. member is referring to would indicate that this individual's income had increased to the point where he would have been expected to pay an extra \$63 a month, based upon the geared-to-income formula. That's the only possible way his rent could have been increased by that amount. There's no other way because from the very beginning, even with rent control on the building and on the units, we've indicated that the rents

would not be increased beyond the regular rent-geared-to-income formula.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, it is the retroactive clause I am talking about. That's what's wrong.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, the rent-geared-to-income formula was in effect during the period of retroactivity as well and they knew it.

Mr. Lewis: And during the debate the Liberals supported you.

KELSON SPRING PRODUCTS LTD.

Mr. Lupusella: A question of the Minister of the Environment: In view of the fact that in May, 1976, the divisional court ruled that the control order issued by the Minister of the Environment was valid and denied the attack made upon it by counsel for Kelson Spring Products Ltd., how does the minister propose to implement the control order of his ministry now?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry; I assume the member mentioned some company and I didn't get the name of the company.

Mr. Lupusella: Kelson Spring Products Ltd., which is located in Dovercourt.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member, I believe, asked a question about this before and I indicated that the ministry was appealing a decision of a lower court to the division court and the date is set sometime this month for that appeal. In the meantime, efforts are being made—

[3:00]

Mr. Lupusella: As a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I stated in my statement that the divisional court ruled that the control order issued by the Minister of the Environment was in fact valid and denied the attack made upon it by Kelson Spring Products Ltd.

Now what is the minister going to do with regard to this particular programme?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: If the divisional court, which is the appeal court in this instance, has ruled that the control order is valid—is that what the hon. member said?—then we will enforce the control order.

Mr. Lupusella: By way of a supplementary: Can the minister assure the House that prompt action will be taken in this regard, so that the area residents can be assured of not enduring

another noisy summer when the plant opens its windows for ventilation with the warm weather ahead?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, if the divisional court has upheld the control order it will be enforced. I assure the hon. member that it will be enforced.

AMUSEMENT PARK SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Mr. B. Newman: I have a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Is the minister aware of the accident on Bob-Lo Island on Saturday of last week in which two young ladies were hurt as a result of an amusement ride—a ride called the Galaxy—and that the fact the municipality does not have inspectors who are capable of assessing the safety of these rides may be the reason why the amusement ride failed and the young ladies were injured?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the circumstances of the accident. I'll look into it and report back, but I don't want to assume the reasons for the accident before I've looked into it.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of personal privilege, if I may. In the light of what emerged today from the statement of the Solicitor General, is it possible for the Minister of Natural Resources (a) to withdraw his remark about apparently deliberate sabotage, which was directed against an entire reserve in the northwest; and (b) indicate to the House whether—when he made his statement on May 31; a matter of privilege that he made involving statements attributed to me—he knew of the condemned fish as of May 18? In the two-week interim, was he aware of any problem when he made his statement?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of the comments in the police report about the fish being contaminated on May 18 and certainly the other statement awaits further study.

Mr. MacDonald: Do some better research. The research is a little faulty.

Mr. McClellan: What about the other part? What about the sabotage?

Mr. Lewis: What about sabotage?

Mr. Speaker: Presenting reports.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I have a short statement to make in connection with the report I intend to table. I wonder if we could go back to statements.

Mr. Lewis: What about a statement dealing with the sabotage at Grassy Narrows?

Mr. McClellan: Aren't you going to apologize?

Mr. Lewis: You made one statement of privilege—how about another?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. the hon. minister is presenting a report.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I intend in a few moments to table the first annual report of the Provincial Parks Council. This is part of the requirement stipulated in order-in-council 3236-74 by which the council was established and the members appointed. The members represent the public viewpoint, which is so essential in the present day park administration. These people were selected from widely separated parts of the province. They have a diversity of backgrounds and experience and they have demonstrated to me that they are able to examine objectively and impartially matters directed to them. I believe that they are able to meet with people in public meetings and discuss problems and viewpoints which might not otherwise be given adequate consideration.

The report will afford you, sir, and the members of this Legislature an opportunity to look briefly into the matters of business which came before the council during its first year of activity. I will say, also, that this group has approached the assignments with a measure of enthusiasm and dedication which is a credit not only to my Ministry of Natural Resources and to this Legislature, but also to the people of the Province of Ontario. I am very grateful to them for giving me the benefit of their wisdom.

I am pleased to inform you that some members of the council are present in the gallery today. Dr. George Priddle, the chairman, and the other members of the council have provided my ministry with recommendations and advice regarding parks and recreation which is of great value in the planning and management of one of the largest and most progressive park systems to be found anywhere.

Mr. Lewis: How about an inquiry into the two-week lapse before you were informed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Bernier presented the first annual report of the Ontario Provincial Parks Council and the 89th annual report of the Niagara Parks Commission.

Mr. McClellan: Let's hope it is your last report.

Mr. Lewis: Where is your interest now that was so high on May 21? You were so concerned.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It will be there long after yours is gone. It won't be for political purposes either.

Mr. Lewis: Why don't you apologize now?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Leader of the Opposition is out of order.

Mr. Lewis: Why don't you ask someone who knew when no one was told?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Cut it, Steve, you are losing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.
Motions.

Introduction of bills.

MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, 1972.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, briefly, in section 1 amending subsection 4 of the bill, the effect of the amendment is to provide that a council member who is the member of a board, commission or other body does not have an indirect pecuniary interest by reason of that fact only, provided he is a member of such board or commission as an appointee of any council.

Subsection 2 of the amended statute governs the situation where several members of a council may be employees of a person or body with whom the council is dealing. Such members are deemed to have an indirect pecuniary interest and may not participate in the proceedings. Where the number of members so affected is such that the remainder of a council does not constitute a quorum, the subsection provides that the re-

maining number of members, provided it is not less than two, is deemed to constitute a quorum.

The new subsections 5(a) and 5(b) will permit a council in the case where all, or all but one, of the members of the council are employees of a person or body to apply to a judge for an order permitting the council to deal with such employer in any specific matter coming before the council as though the indirect pecuniary interest does not exist.

In section 2, the amending section permits a judge to relieve a council member of the penalties imposed by the Act where he finds that the interest of a member who failed to disclose it was so remote or insignificant as not reasonably to be likely to influence the member in his consideration or voting on the subject matter.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The 22nd order, House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (continued)

On vote 2902:

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I gather when the committee rose we had completed section 1 of vote 2902. We will deal with section 2.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Chairman, I understand that we're on the section dealing with curriculum development. I would like to make a few comments on it.

First of all, I would like to support the statement made by the minister which, I believe, paraphrasing it, was something to the effect that the curriculum is the heart of the educational system. I also note that the recent publication of the ministry, entitled "Education in the Primary and Junior Divisions", says on page 3, "The Ministry of Education views curriculum as all of those experiences of the child for which the school is responsible."

That's a pretty wide-ranging definition and I think it will give us the opportunity to touch a few bases. I would like to begin by saying that the Minister of Education certainly has demonstrated that he is a man of ability and concern and conscientiousness as far as education in this province is concerned.

On the other hand, whenever we speak in terms of curriculum or basics or standards or norms, this minister seems to take on a somewhat defensive attitude. Perhaps, given

the amount of personal effort and time and attention he has put into his ministry, that is somewhat understandable. It does make it a little bit difficult to debate the issue in this House because the point I think we have tried to make several times, and I am going to speak to again very briefly this afternoon, is that although we have the basis of a fine educational system in this province there are places where change needs to be made, where emphasis needs to be re-examined. At the risk of repeating comments I have made earlier, I believe these things need to be said once again.

Your ministry certainly cannot be faulted for what it has attempted to do in this province over the last number of years. They have poured many millions—indeed, billions—of dollars into the educational structure and establishment and systems of this province. As a matter of fact, if we take the \$1.9 billion in the budget this year and add to that approximately another \$1.3 billion, which is raised at the local municipal level, we have a total somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$3.2 billion of public tax money being used to support elementary and secondary education in this province. We have also been talking of in excess of another billion for post-secondary education so we are certainly talking of a very expensive structure.

The minister himself pointed out to us the last time we met that a recent world-wide study indicated that Ontario spends as much, if not more, money per capita on education as any other jurisdiction in the world. We know there is a lot of money put into it.

Secondly, we know that the minister has put a great deal of resource people in the ministry and a great deal of resource personnel into the educational system of this province, both at the central level here in Toronto and in the various regional offices. Therefore, if money and people could solve all the problems the ministry has made some attempt to do so.

The ministry has also come out over the last few years with many curriculum guides of one type or another in some attempt to give direction to the teachers and the school boards across this province. Once again, if money and people and printed matter would solve the problems certainly we should have a system which has no difficulties whatsoever. But we don't have that kind of system because I would suggest there are a few basic flaws in this whole approach. That is, perhaps, what we have to take a look at.

First of all, again going back to the minister's own words in his opening statement, I

think money will not solve this problem. Simply pouring more and more dollars into it is not the answer because some of the problems we are facing today are the same problems we faced three, four, five or six years ago, and many more dollars have been poured in in that interval. They didn't meet the problem.

Secondly, I think this ministry has an idea that bigness—big schools, big school systems, big school boards—all the way down the line and a very large Ministry of Education somehow was going to help solve these problems. I believe it has been amply demonstrated that that is not the solution either.

We certainly have to give credit, however, and I think this ministry has taken a very enlightened direction toward the children of this province. It said very clearly that we have an obligation to provide an educational opportunity for every child at the level of ability that he or she possesses and can take advantage of.

[3:15]

We have said that this should be a child-centred educational structure right across this whole province. These are basically good ideals. They are certainly goals that are worth aiming for. They are certainly goals that are worth achieving. But contained within these are certain flaws as well, because ideas and activities have flowed from them that I believe are coming under question today.

For example, I believe we have to question the basic assumption that the individual needs of a child and his ability to learn at a certain rate should be our primary guide. I think we're beginning to see through advanced study in child psychology and the way in which children learn that that itself can be a limitation, that if we just use what the child believes or what the teacher perceives is the distance that a child can go, the rate at which he can learn, then we may be putting inherent limitations on it.

I'm becoming less and less convinced in my own mind, both from prior education experience and the experience of being in this Legislature, that we shouldn't take another hard look at that. We know that that was the central theme running through the "Living and Learning" report that was presented to this government and upon which much of the educational structure of this province is based today. But I believe there are some of those underlying themes we have to look at again.

I think also that we have failed to introduce into our system, albeit maybe not inten-

tionally, but it's there anyway, the whole concept of hard work as a factor in learning, the whole concept of being pushed a little bit as a factor in learning, the whole concept of being able to accept failure from time to time. Not the student as a failure but the failure to be able to do something as an important component. Yet within many of our school systems today it would seem as if these are being downplayed. I'm suggesting that maybe that's part of the total malaise that we have to address ourselves to once again.

There are parents, employers and university teachers who are saying to us that the students coming out of our schools display and put forward this kind of an attitude; "I can't fail. I'm not really prepared to work hard to achieve something." We've got to take a look at that. I'm lumping it in at this particular point in time, because what I'm trying to get at is that perhaps the underlying philosophy of many of the things we are doing in our schools today may not be correct, or perhaps we've given too much attention to that philosophy and maybe we have to take a look at them once again.

One of the things I would like to make very clear in my following remarks—and I think this was suggested the last time I spoke on this matter—is that I am not suggesting we go back to the so-called good old days. I'm not suggesting we go back 20, 25 or 30 years and repeat the same kinds of concerns we had then. We know the educational structure at that time was not a perfect one. We know those of us who were involved in it at that time were not satisfied with it. We know it was too rigid and that it was too inflexible. We know there was an overemphasis on content and not enough emphasis on understanding. We know there was an overemphasis on the group, on the class, on the grade, if you will, and not enough emphasis on the individual. We know those particular situations existed, and I am not recommending we go back to that point.

At the same time we have also recognized that many good things have flowed from the changes in the educational system in this province over the last 15, 20 and 25 years. We know our children today, the graduates of our schools today, have a deeper social awareness. We know they can discuss many of the social problems more intelligently and sometimes more articulately than former graduates can. We know the whole system has improved in many ways. That's basically the point I'm trying to make. But, as has so often happened in education, not only in

this province but all over the world—and I think maybe this is what many people are speaking to—perhaps the pendulum has swung too far.

If I can quote from *The Educational Courier* of 1975, which I think is a respected teacher educational journal of this province, maybe the point I'm trying to make is made even more clearly there. I'm looking at the November, 1975 edition, and there is this paragraph in it:

As the 1960s gave way to the 1970s, our financial resources dwindled, our progressive visions dimmed and we discovered that university students couldn't add and subtract accurately, used "like" and "you know" too frequently, and could barely write legibly. We realized that something had gone wrong somewhere.

That's one point. I would suggest that something has gone wrong somewhere and we must address ourselves to it. Farther along there's a note of hope and optimism, and I would like to address that as well.

The majority of people do not doubt the tremendous value that the life skills are to the child. They just want a little more substance behind them. [And further on:] The pendulum has swung in both directions, from the rigid to the lax. With the experience of the two systems, we can begin to construct an educational system that combines the best of both.

That's what I'm trying to suggest to the minister, Mr. Chairman.

Let us look at the two places we've been, the two swings of the pendulum, if you will, and try to address ourselves to the question: What can we do at this point in time to get as close as we can to the best of those two worlds? In doing so we have to appreciate the kind of insecurity and uncertainty of the world that we live in now, and insecurity and uncertainty that doesn't just affect the educational establishment, but all social groups. It's affecting our governments, it's affecting business, it's affecting our churches—and it's certainly affecting our schools, where people are taking a hard look at the situation. This is nothing to be wary of; it's nothing to be ashamed of. It's just simply recognizing the situation we find ourselves in and asking where do we go from here. Okay.

The last time I spoke I suggested to the minister that there was a feeling out there that things were not as good as they should be. At that time, and several times in the interval, you have spoken as if this was just a figment of the imagination of the people of

this side of the House, that there was no substance to support them. It has been suggested the basics were being done well, that there was no real problem out there, that our students are better today than they've ever been before—and, therefore, why were we all upset.

I would like to draw your attention to several sources that I'm sure the minister has come across as well. But I think, cumulatively, they make their point. The first one is the recent brief of the Ontario Teachers' Federation. The very first recommendation they make under curriculum is that there will be the "creation of a course curriculum, including instruction in the basic skills and the study of our Canadian heritage."

If the teachers of this province believed that it was already there, then they wouldn't make this as one of their first recommendations. The very fact that they say that is an indication that they don't believe it's there; they don't perceive it's there. You say that it is. You're saying to the rest of us, "Believe that it is." But here are the teachers in the classrooms themselves who are suggesting that perhaps it isn't.

I'll just make one other reference in making a point in this same document. On page 13 it says that:

The OTF developed and published curriculum guidelines for the junior kindergarten, now widely used throughout the province, because no such guidelines were available and they were needed by the teachers of Ontario.

The ministry didn't provide it. The teachers of Ontario felt it was needed, and they provided it.

There is another more recent document that the minister, himself, has referred to. "At What Price?" is a brief prepared by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

Mr. Foulds: "At What Cost?"

Mr. Sweeney: "At What Cost?"—excuse me. Maybe "At What Price?" would be a better title. The minister referred to one of my colleagues and asked us if we knew what the recommendations were in this report. Let's take a look at the very first one: "That the Ministry of Education establish a core curriculum in the areas of English, mathematics, science, history"—and so on.

Once again, a teaching group that's asking as its first recommendation that we establish a core curriculum. They obviously don't believe that it's there—at least to their satisfaction.

Hon. Mr. Wells: What do you think they mean by that statement?

Mr. Sweeney: I think they mean a clear statement of what is expected of them from the ministry. We will get into this whole business of autonomy in a few minutes, because I know the minister will address himself to that—

Hon. Mr. Wells: Do you think they mean that pupils should take those programmes or that there should be a common core in the programmes given across the province?

Mr. Sweeney: I believe they mean—this is what I mean, and I believe that's what they mean—that there is a common core that every student should take. Those students who are not able to take it—and I would underline those words—should by far be the exception, but everyone else should take it. I think that's what they mean, that every student in this province should be asked and should be expected to take a common core curriculum. Now, whether I or you would agree with what they would include in the core curriculum is open to debate. I respect that, Mr. Minister.

Again, I am looking at page 18 of the report, and in italics it says: "We propose therefore a core curriculum, especially in years 1 and 2 of the secondary school." Going over to the next column of the same page—they are talking here of examinations, which I would like to refer to in a few minutes—the report states: "Thus many features of the examination were alien to the changing philosophy"—and I think this is the key phrase—"but the remedy was to kill off the entire system rather than to cut out the offending parts." I would suggest that that has taken place in more situations than this, that in fact there has been a killing-off rather than a basic change.

In a report that the minister is well aware of, I am sure, from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, "Report on the Basic Educational Skills." What we have had first of all were reports from teachers. Now we are talking of a report that was commissioned, supported and distributed by the businessmen of this province; as a matter of fact, of all of Canada. On page 7, under the "Nature of Deterioration," it says: "There has been a deterioration of the basic communication and computational skills. The opinion that this has come about is almost unanimous." That's what the businessmen of the province say.

Mr. Foulds: You will notice they said "opinion."

Mr. Sweeney: Granted, granted.

Mr. Foulds: They didn't have any research in support, in fact.

Mr. Sweeney: We are looking now at the Ontario Economic Council, a council which I understand the Treasurer of this province has praised fairly highly in the last few days. I don't think he agrees with all of their recommendations, but nevertheless he has drawn it to their attention. On page 12 they talk about basic skills in this province: "There is evidence that students leaving the secondary education system are not adequately equipped with basic arithmetic and communication skills." There are several other references of the same type. I won't read them all, Mr. Minister. You are familiar with them.

We have referred in this House several times to OISE. As a matter of fact, Mr. Minister, very recently in the debate I understood you to be praising OISE fairly highly, to be accepting the kind of research work that's done there, to believe that that kind of research work is necessary. Yet in 1972 and 1973 there was a report from OISE that said very clearly that parents and teachers were uneasy and disturbed about what they saw happening in this province. That was 1972 and 1973. Here we have the teacher report in 1975; this was a survey, and the respondents were teachers, parents and students—a complete cross-section. The same thing is there, only it's intensified; the words "frustrated," "disappointed" and "disturbed" are in this report. So we see the same thing happening.

Recently OISE was commissioned—and I don't know by whom—to do an overall comparison of the norms or standards of the Dominion Test of Basic Skills over the last 10 years. The report, which has been made public, says very clearly that there has been a definite deterioration of the skill acquisition of students in this province over that period of time. There has been some question as to exactly what they are testing, but we are talking of basic skills. Can the kids read and write and add and subtract the way they used to be able to? This report suggests that they cannot.

I am also looking at another report from OISE, by Prof. Holmes, which points out very clearly that one of the guiding lights for the thrust in this province—one of them; not the only one—was a book by Goodlad and Anderson, "The Non-Graded Elementary School," from California I believe it was and many of the Ontario schools followed this particular form. Back in 1963 when the book was originally written everything was

fine. Later on, it appeared as if things weren't quite so fine and we read this, by Mr. Goodlad himself, the same one who authored the original book: "The non-graded students will learn slightly less." And farther on: "A good non-graded school will show a drop in achievement."

[3:30]

This was 1968. We were warned even in 1968 that some of the thrusts that were taking place in the schools of this province could result in a lowering of achievement. Now perhaps at that time we weren't concerned about that, but nevertheless we were warned.

I have an interesting press statement here, Mr. Chairman, from the former Minister of Colleges and Universities, the Hon. Mr. Auld. This was just about a year ago, April, 1975, and he says this:

Ontario has limited revenue for education. When there is a financial pinch you can't help but wonder whether standards are being relaxed more than they should be.

That's a minister of your own government.

A few days ago I referred to a report by President Fleck of the Ontario College of Art in which he refers to the remedial education courses now being set up in the universities. At that time the key phrase was, and I would like to repeat it again, "We are talking here of students who have come through the normal educational system and who are deficient in the basic writing skills which that system ought normally to teach them." We are not talking of special education students. We are not talking of students who have particular problems. We are talking of the normal kids coming through the system who did not get the kinds of skills that they should be expected to get.

I have another report here, Mr. Chairman, which shows something unusual when we talk in terms of the autonomy of the board or some of the things that have happened since the ministry has withdrawn some of its own standards and norms. Mr. Minister, are you aware, for example, that in 1971 the number of grade 13 students in Ontario was a little over 56,600; in 1971 the number of Ontario Scholars was 6,900. By 1975, the number of grade 13 students had decreased to 56,300 and yet the number of Ontario Scholars, strangely enough, had increased to 9,100. There's a rather interesting kind of thing happening there. We have to really wonder what's happened to the standards

over those three or four years when you have a decrease in the number of students and a rather dramatic increase, I would suggest, over 30 per cent, in the number of Ontario Scholars. What's the basis of the judgement? What are the criteria? What are the norms?

I am also sure you are aware of a statement, Mr. Minister, from the University of Waterloo which shows a—and I guess the only word I can use is soaring—soaring failure rate of first-year engineering students at that school. And I believe that that is the leading engineering school in the province at the present time.

In 1968, when there was a common standard in this province for mathematics, the failure rate was 5.8 per cent. It progressively increased over the next few years from 5.8 per cent up to 10.2 per cent. And then to 14.4 per cent. And then to 20.4 per cent. And finally to 23.1 per cent—year after year after year.

We can go on and on and on, but the point I'm trying to make is that whether we are talking about teachers, whether we are talking about the businessmen of this province—and I have a whole file of press clippings, and I am sure you do too, from all sources, from trustees, from teachers, from businessmen, from university teachers, from parents, from editorial writers, all the way down the scale. What I'm trying to suggest is that there is an overwhelming cross-section of opinion—and I will underline the word "opinion;" I'll underline it—but the fact is, it's there. That is the perception.

The point I'm trying to get at is that at the present time there is a very wide credibility gap in our society about the effectiveness of our schools to teach the basics, to provide for norms and standards. And I don't think rhetoric is going to wipe it away.

Surely, we have one of two responsibilities: Either to demonstrate so clearly that all those people are wrong—those parents are wrong, the teachers of the province are wrong, the businessmen are wrong, the university professors are wrong, the editorial writers are wrong; surely we have an obligation to demonstrate, to document, to show evidence that they're all wrong—or we have an obligation to find out whether or not they might be right and to do something about it?

By doing something about it, Mr. Minister, I mean very clearly a statement from the Ministry of Education that very clearly points out what the guidelines are for, if nothing else, the basics of this province; a very clear

statement saying this is what we expect the children of this province, at the various division levels, to learn. Here's what we expect them to have achieved by a certain point in time, and here is a testing, or evaluation guideline. I'm not talking about a very clear guideline as to how you evaluate. I would suggest to you, Mr. Minister, that what we have now does not provide that.

I have, for example, "The Formative Years." I'm looking for the primary division. For the primary division, under the heading of arithmetic, we have half a page of a very small booklet which suggests to the teachers of this province what they should be teaching in arithmetic over a four-year period in primary division. I would suggest to you, Mr. Minister, that just simply isn't enough. I'm not the one who is suggesting it. Ask the teachers in the province and they'll tell you it isn't enough either, especially when there are six points and one point reads something like this: "Acquire an understanding of the concepts of simple fractions"—that's clear enough—"and decimals."

Surely we need to say more than that? We can go through the whole book. Mr. Minister, this is a good statement but it simply isn't enough. That's the point I'm trying to make. We talk about evaluation. There's nothing in this book on evaluation at all. It isn't mentioned. It is mentioned in this one, "Education in the Primary and Junior Division." As a matter of fact, it is mentioned five times, but let's look at the way in which it's mentioned. Let's just take a look. For example, on page 57, this is one of the five references in the entire book to evaluation, testing or whatever you want to call it:

It is often wise to refrain from immediately correcting errors in spelling and punctuation. For example, over-emphasis on correctness in spelling can inhibit the children's experimentation with new words and ultimately may lead to the overuse of simple words that they know how to spell.

That's a fair statement. I'm not quarreling with it, but that doesn't tell the teachers what to do. Let me read one more, and you can pick any one of the five if you wish, Mr. Minister. On page 51, under the heading of "Comprehension:"

One of the teachers' main concerns is to ascertain the degree to which the children have understood what they read. Paraphrasing is one of the best indicators of comprehension.

It goes on to talk about paraphrasing. That's one of the indicators, but it is not nearly

enough. That's the point I'm trying to make. In terms of the statement of what we expect children to learn and what we expect them to have accomplished by a given period of time, in terms of a statement of how you evaluate, what we have put out now is not nearly enough.

Mr. Warner: Describe local autonomy; let's talk about local autonomy.

Mr. Sweeney: Okay. Mr. Minister, what I'm trying to get at is to suggest that we have basically a good educational system but it has flaws in it and part of those flaws are due to the philosophy of the system that we have to take another look at; part of the flaws are the procedures that we carry out, and part of the flaws are the directions and guidance that come from the ministry.

Okay, let's go on one step further. Let's go to the teachers. First of all, teacher education in terms of curriculum. Teacher education comes up later on in this vote, I know that. But Mr. Minister, are you aware of the fact that right now, with the optional programmes in our teachers' colleges—first of all we had the optional programmes in the secondary school and I guess it was only a matter of time before they'd be in the teachers' colleges as well—it's possible for a teacher in a one-year programme to get through teachers' college and get very little and perhaps no skills in such basic subjects as reading because of the way in which the programme is set up at the present time?

I was speaking very recently to a superintendent who was interviewing teachers in February. At the end of that interview, and we're talking now about half way through the year, he was so frustrated trying to find out from the teacher what pedagogical learning had taken place, what teaching and learning skills they had acquired, that he finally said; "Well, you tell me what you've covered in school and then maybe I'll know what to talk to you about."

If we wonder what some of the problems are with the actual learning that's taking place in the school maybe that's where we have to start; maybe we have to take another hard look at the kinds of training our teachers are getting. I'd like to come back to that later on when we talk about teacher training.

I'd like to address myself very briefly, under the heading of curriculum to two areas specifically, Canadian studies and French. I would suggest to you we're not doing a very good job in our schools under Canadian studies. I made this observation the last time I spoke on this and the minister very gra-

ciously—and I thank him for it—replied to the comments I made.

I would like to come back with just one sentence out of your comments. You said: "In connection with Canadian studies, I should point out that it was never our intention to focus narrowly on history and geography." That's a fair statement and I think it says something. The point I was trying to make at that time, and the point I would make again now, is that those two subject areas are so overwhelmingly important that we must focus on them much more strongly than we are at the present time.

Very recently the head of curriculum studies for the Etobicoke Board of Education made an observation, if I can quote it again. John Biddell, who is the curriculum superintendent—and I checked with him on this—told the Etobicoke Board of Education committee that the province's definition of Canadian studies is too vague. He said the ministry has started to clarify it in the last few months but it is still inadequate.

We also had a statement made at the Canadian Teachers' Federation very recently, on May 18 of this year, in which much the same thing was said. We had a recent study across this country, including this province, by Mel Hurtig, which demonstrates in several different ways the woeful lack of knowledge of our students as far as their own country and their own geography are concerned.

I just don't think we're doing a job here. I don't think we can leave that up to chance. By the minister's own definition, Canadian studies in our secondary schools and at the grade 7 and 8 level—let's stick with the secondary schools—does not necessarily imply a study of Canadian history or geography. We can have a student who would go through the system without taking Canadian history and geography, and I don't think that should happen. I would have to question if there is any jurisdiction, anywhere, that is as lax with the demands made upon its students for knowledge of the history and geography of their country.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me ask a question. Are you saying that students in this province can go through without taking any Canadian history or geography?

Mr. Sweeney: I'm talking of secondary schools; and the answer is yes.

Hon. Mr. Wells: But they do get Canadian history and geography in the elementary schools.

Mr. Sweeney: My understanding of the curriculum is that they get it at grades 7 and

8; but I would draw your attention to the comment I made earlier about the superintendent of curriculum of a large board in this province that even there the direction from the ministry is perceived to be vague and inadequate, even at that level.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I would dispute that. But let me just say that if such is taking place, and it can be demonstrated that it's taking place in the secondary school, we will change the requirement for Canadian studies to make it mandatory that they be Canadian history and Canadian geography, because I feel just as strongly as you do about it. If the schools are watering down what I feel is a mandate to take things like that, which are really of basic concern to Canadians, we'll change it, believe me.

[3:45]

Mr. Sweeney: Thank you. I would certainly argue favourably that a student should not go through our secondary schools—I just don't think they should be able to—without that background. I'm glad to hear the minister make that statement because it is happening at the present time.

Maybe that's enough for history and geography. Something has been happening very recently, for the last year or so, which concerns me a little bit and I think perhaps this is the appropriate time, under curriculums, to draw it to your attention. If I could refer to a very recent piece of legislation, an amendment to the Act, whereby the minister said they would encourage—that isn't the word I want; permit, I guess, is the word—permit school boards to set up immersion programmes or make it easier for school boards to set up immersion programmes in French. We know the boards have been doing it lately. The thing that concerns me is if the ministry goes on record as making it easier for these things to happen, it may be perceived as also encouraging it to happen; whether that is a fact or not, I'm suggesting it may be perceived to do that.

I wonder if any serious research has been done by the ministry as to the effects on a large segment of our students if immersion programmes were put in by the bulk of the boards of this province. Once again, I'm referring to a report which was done by a primary consultant of one of the larger local boards. It's a report, by the way, which was commissioned by the board and is part of its overall study. It says, "This forced immersion programme could damage a child's social and academic development."

It goes on—and I have a couple of other clippings to the same effect—to point out there is a significant number of students, in the primary grades particularly, who may be harmed if they are enrolled in such a programme. If it's made to appear too appealing or if it's made to appear too socially acceptable, the thing to do, and therefore parents are encouraged to enrol their children in it, whether or not they should be enrolled in it, we may be doing considerable harm to some students.

The point I'm trying to get at is that I'm not in any way objecting to immersion programmes in our schools but I am concerned that an action by the ministry, past, present or future, may have an effect in some of our school systems which could be damaging to our students. Before that is encouraged—before it appears to be encouraged—maybe more and careful study needs to be done by this ministry, if it has not already been done, to be sure we know exactly what the effect is.

I would like to close with one more quote from the "Courier" I referred to earlier and I think it sums up what I'm trying to say. The very last paragraph is, "Wouldn't parents be surprised if their kids could not only add and spell but also come home from school with an awareness of themselves as individuals in this world?"

That's what I'm arguing for—a little bit of both: A good dose of the basics and a good dose of humaneness and individual understanding. I don't think that at the present time the balance in our schools is as clear and as well-defined as it should be.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Does the hon. minister wish to respond?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think some of the other members wish to speak.

Mr. Foulds: My colleague from Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) had hoped to participate in the debate with some specific questions about native education and he will be up in 90 seconds, I'm sure.

I have a couple of specific questions on curriculum development that I'd like to ask the minister. First of all, I would like to ask him at what stage of development are the units, I guess, being developed for labour studies in high school? I think there is some research material which the OFL is developing and about which it has had contacts, I believe, with the ministry. I think they're getting a fairly good contact there. I wonder if the minister could bring us up to date on that—on the acceptability to the ministry of

the labour curriculum studies which have been developed by the OFL? I believe they have one publication, Morden Lazarus' book, accepted as a research document. I believe they are now working on actually developing units of study and I would like to know what the ministry view is of those and where they are in their communication with the OFL on that.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The Morden Lazarus book is published now and I think there was a grant from the ministry of \$20,000 to help them with the publishing of that book. I am not aware of any other things that are happening at the minute, except, perhaps, that the Federation of Labour are coming in to see us very shortly to talk about some further things and I think that may be what the hon. member is talking about. But I think that is to be the subject of a meeting we are having in the very near future—some further curriculum things they wish to suggest.

Mr. Foulds: Could I make a couple of positive suggestions with regard to this? I think there are two ways in which we can get a more realistic and objective view of labour in the schools. In the past I think it is fair to say that, by and large, the text references have been only to violent strikes, which is not the whole history or even contribution of labour. We look to, if you like, a two-pronged approach—perhaps developing a specific optional course in labour history that could be offered as one of the options in history departments throughout the province, or the development as well of units within a whole range of courses from man in society, to politics, to history. I think that we should look at both approaches and not merely for four-year students in science, technology and trades or in commercial and business.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, if I may just make reference to the subject the hon. member has raised. I had an opportunity to look at an excellent course outline that was presented at least in part by the Federation of Labour. The reason I was particularly interested in it is a former teacher from Paris, a Mr. Murtaugh, was one of the people who had worked on it. I felt that it was an excellent course outline. I am rather surprised that the minister hasn't had a chance to have a look at it since it was already presented to the Brant county board, I believe, for their approval. I would hope that it would be supported by the ministry in each occasion where their opinion is asked.

Mr. Foulds: I think they have completed the outline and have the first two units fully developed.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is, of course, quite possible that the Brant county board is offering it as an experimental course. This is something that our programme of flexibility allows. If the guideline is there and certain teachers have a greater interest in these particular subject areas than others they may, having that course available, develop that as an experimental course in their own schools and it could be it is being offered there.

As I say, at the Ontario Federation of Labour meeting with the cabinet a few weeks ago some of the members of the federation and myself had a brief discussion afterwards. They and their education committee are coming in for another meeting with us to talk more about these matters. Our people don't have any contact or anything in the way of a guideline at the present time.

Mr. Wildman: I wanted to follow up with some of the comments made last week by the member from Oakwood (Mr. Grande) about multiculturalism. I wanted to speak specifically about native education, which is very important in my riding and throughout the north as well as in parts of southern Ontario, and what appears to be really a complete failure of the ministry to come to grips with the problems of native education. We can go back right to the point where, when we had the resident schools, people were punished for speaking their own languages. At least we've come away from that and we now have some Ojibway and Cree classes.

I think it is up to the particular board to decide whether they are going to have them as sort of an extracurricular thing to try to maintain some of the native culture, but there isn't really very much being done to try to stop the phenomenal dropout rate of native children from our educational system. I don't think the comment made earlier about the need for standards really has much to do with this particular problem, in that obviously our education, our standards and what we're doing in education has very little relevance to the native children because very few of them are staying in school.

There have been recent comments in the press about teachers in the Kenora area, for instance, who feel that the Ministry of Education has done nothing to deal with things like the fact that the time for trapping, to go out on the trap lines, has no connection whatever with school holidays in the north.

I see one of your officials leafing through the booklet, which I've read, on native culture and so on, and I'm happy that the ministry is doing that. I'm concerned in the wider aspect of the fact that very few native children ever make it out of high school. As a matter of fact, the dropout rate between grade 9 and 10 is just terrible.

If a student has other interests and other skills, what are we doing to try to develop those? What are we doing in the north to try to give the native person the kind of skills that he might use when he finishes school, rather than teaching him about the kind of things that are useful to an urban-oriented child but really have very little relevance to him? What skills do we want to develop for our native people in the north in their education system? What relevance are we giving the north?

I'm not just talking about native study programmes—I think they're useful and good because they can teach not only native people but also white students the value of native culture—but, overall, what are we doing in education to make it more relevant to native children? What counselling are we giving native children to try to keep them in schools, to deal with their home problems or their personal problems that may contribute to the dropout rate?

Recently, I wrote to the Ministry of Education regarding a particular community in my riding, and I asked about counselling for native people, not just the students but the families as well, to keep students in school and help them make it through to high school and to graduate out of high school. This was in response to a request I had from a Mrs. Madieros, who herself is a native person in Hornepayne. I got a reply from a Mr. Maudsley in Sudbury. His letter was basically just a covering statement.

Obviously he had followed up on my request and had written the Department of Indian Affairs in Ottawa and asked them about this. He writes back saying, "I believe the attached letter represents a satisfactory response to a request for a native attendance counsellor." I was talking about attendance but I was talking about a wider problem too, of the whole thing of dropouts, of course. I just want to read a short portion from this letter that Mr. Maudsley received from a Mr. Gibbs, district superintendent of education, Nakina district, Department of Indian Affairs. He says:

A member of our staff has now visited Hornepayne schools and talked to the

principals and teachers. The enrolment of those children who are ethnically Indian is broken down as follows: Holy Name Separate School 10; Hornepayne Public School 13; Hornepayne High School 0; for a total of 23."

That's exactly what I'm talking about. Hornepayne High School zero. There's a significant population of native people in this town, but there are absolutely no native children in the high school. He goes on to say:

Of the 23 pupils noted above, we have been able to identify 15 as being registered band members. The remaining eight are not carried on our records and we, therefore, presume they are non-status.

This is something that's important, because I anticipate the answer we might get from the minister is that treaty Indians are the responsibility of the federal government. I agree with that, that's certainly true, but I'm not just talking about treaty Indians, I'm talking about native people, which includes a large number of non-status people, people who are not the responsibility of the federal government, and the Minister without Portfolio sitting behind you, Mr. Wells, certainly knows and understands the difference. The importance here is not legal terms like status and non-status but education of native people.

[4:00]

What is this government doing either to prod the Ministry of Indian Affairs to do more for status people, for treaty Indians, or what is it doing itself to ensure that non-status people are getting the kind of education which has some relevance to their experience? If we continue to have education which, as was recently quoted in the press, talks about the dangerous Indian massacres in Canadian or American history, what on earth is that doing to encourage native people to stay in our schools? If we continue to have education systems geared for the technology and the society of an urban-oriented community, what on earth is that doing for people living in north-western Ontario?

I'd like to know what is being done here. I'd like to know what's being done to deal with things like trapping and hunting seasons as regards holidays. I'd like to know what is being done in the studies of Canadian history to give a more honest view but, perhaps, an uncomfortable one for the white community, of our Canadian history.

What are we doing about native studies in particular? What are we doing to expand

that into the whole realm of education in general, to encourage more and more native people to stay in school? I'd like to know how many native people are in your ministry. I'd like to know how many specialists in native education are in your ministry. I'd like to know how much money you are spending to ensure that we clean up this mess.

Hon. Mr. Wells: To answer that, of course, it's very easy to criticize. It's much more difficult to be actually in there, trying to cope with what is not an easy problem but one which I think people in my ministry, working with others, have been dealing with very effectively—certainly not to arrive at the utopian point my friend sees perhaps but certainly we are aware of the problems. We have people from the ministers down who are sincerely trying to cope with those particular problems.

First of all, as my friend notes, there is a split responsibility for education as far as native peoples in this province are concerned. We would be far better off if we didn't have that split responsibility as far as I am concerned. It would be far better if education were the responsibility of the province as it is for all the other children in this community.

However, I say that as a personal opinion because I think if that decision is to be made it must be made by the native people themselves. While we may say that is what should be done, when you go and ask them, they don't always agree that that's what should be done. Far be it from me to say that that's how we think it should be handled until they themselves come to some determination on this matter and the federal government also comes to some determination on this matter and doesn't just say "Fine. We'll wash our hands of it; you take it over" without, in some way, entering into agreements to compensate for what is basically its responsibility—in other words the whole problem of the federal responsibility for native people vis-à-vis the provincial and the ministerial responsibility.

Living with that, of course, we have to try to do those things which can make our system as effective as possible and to guarantee to the children of those native peoples an advancement in the educational system in keeping with what other children are able to receive. We have two people in our ministry who might be classified as native people. They are doing an excellent job.

They are working with many people around this province to develop programmes which can help attack this problem.

You have already commented on the resource guide for native studies which, of course, is not just for native education but is in order to help all children in the schools on the whole subject of the native peoples in this country.

We also embarked upon a programme two years ago to make it possible for native peoples to become teachers in the north. I think about 96 people enrolled in that programme and 82 graduated from that programme.

Mr. Grande: How many have jobs?

Hon. Mr. Wells: All of them except those who went to university.

Mr. Shore: Give us a straight answer.

Hon. Mr. Wells: What you want to know now is how many went to university.

Mr. Samis: You don't need us.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Off-hand, about eight. That programme hasn't been repeated. The point is that we were under strong opposition at the time from the Ontario Teachers' Federation for even implementing that programme because it was an attempt to take in people who did not have university degrees, which is the requirement for entrance to teachers' colleges or teacher training institutions in this province. It was an attempt to bring native peoples into this programme because, as you have rightly said, there are very few who have university degrees. If we were to wait until we had enough who had university degrees to institute a special teacher training programme or put them in the regular programme, we wouldn't have any of these people. The outreach of that particular programme is being evaluated and there is no reason why it can't be repeated if it is proving effective. My staff says we are likely going to get a recommendation to repeat it and that will probably mean another hassle with the Ontario Teachers' Federation over it.

Mr. Foulds: You won't default on it?

Hon. Mr. Wells: But I must say in this particular area we have to be firm in saying that in the schools where native people are attending, the over-riding concern is to have native teachers there. Therefore, we will look with favour on that. However, we will listen to the comments of the Ontario

Teachers' Federation about it and that will come.

We also had been encouraging the use, and there has been a pilot project going on in Thunder Bay, of counsellors to try to encourage young people to move from the elementary system into the secondary system. There is no question that it is a problem. They are not motivated and they are not oriented toward secondary education. I am hopeful that the new James Bay Secondary School will encourage more in that particular area to take secondary education.

There are presently those attending schools on a resident basis in a lot of areas across the north. I don't have the complete number in secondary schools. It is a difficult situation for a lot of them, being uprooted completely from their homes and having to board or stay with someone in a strange community and go to school, perhaps with some of their friends and perhaps not. That's not perhaps the best situation but it does offer an opportunity for these people to be students in a secondary school and they receive grants for their transportation and for their living accommodation.

We have been also seconded a number of people of native ancestry to work with our regional offices in the implementation of our curriculum programme, Resource Guide on People of Native Ancestry, and these are working out at the regions now.

I was hopeful to have a resource package that was prepared in the Sudbury area but it has not arrived yet. I think it is an excellent resource package that has been prepared. Again probably it is more helpful for use in school generally rather than just for children of native ancestry.

We've given \$105,000 to OISE who are working with the Ojibway Tribal Education group; they're doing a research study at the present time. We've also given money to the Canadian Association in Support of Native Peoples for the development of curriculum material. Those are a few of the things that are happening.

I want to assure my friend that we haven't arrived at perfection, and I think we all know the problems are there, but I just don't want him to think there isn't a lot of activity going on. There's money being spent in this area, although money isn't the complete answer, as is also true in a lot of areas, but there are a lot of things going on to try to come to grips with the kinds of problems that the hon. member has been talking about in the area of native education.

Mr. Wildman: Thank you. I'd just like to ask a couple of questions. First, I appreciate the work that's being done by teachers and by the ministry to try to develop native studies programmes, but again my question was a bit wider than that in that I wanted to talk about how we might change the overall approach in schools where there is a significant native population, so that we don't just have native studies programmes for native people and other students. I think that's important, because perhaps then we'll have more understanding and we won't get tripe like "Bended Elbow."

But it's more than that; it's changing the whole atmosphere and attitude in the school to be more relevant to native persons. As you mentioned, there are people in Sault Ste. Marie that I've taught who've come from Moosonee to go to school. They're brought into a completely new environment. They may go home for a Christmas holiday or a summer holiday, so after five years in that environment, they're somewhere in the middle. They don't fit into the urban environment and they don't fit into their home environment. They're completely in limbo. The kids don't have much in common with their parents, and yet they don't feel completely at home with their white friends.

I know it's not an easy question, and I'm not criticizing the ministry. I didn't try to give the impression of criticizing the ministry. I know it's a very difficult question. I know also that there's a split jurisdiction with the federal government. But specifically I'm talking more about non-status people for whom the federal government does not take responsibility, who live in communities outside of reserves, usually in the poorer areas of those communities, with a tremendous amount of unemployment and a lot of social problems. It's very difficult to deal with the children of those families and to try to get them into a position where they can excel in school.

I think counselling is very important, and one reason I got a little bit upset was when Mr. Maudsley said that he thought this was a satisfactory answer. Basically what the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development said was that because there are no students in the high school, it doesn't appear that counselling is necessary. That's the whole problem. There are no students in the high schools. What are they doing to change it?

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Chairman, I will be brief on this particular vote as I have expressed my opinions on it several times, but as one who left the school system not that

long ago, Mr. Minister, I would like to leave with you my sincere feelings about what I consider to be a situation that is getting possibly increasingly worse.

As I'm sure all the members in the House do, I have a number of young people who come to me on a continuing basis who I guess are obviously very poorly prepared to participate in industry or in the business community in Ontario. In spending some time with them, you find that they are quite seriously lacking in basic skills—reading, writing and mathematics. I think that the time has come possibly where we, on a non-partisan basis, must recognize—

Mr. McClellan: Non-partisan?

Mr. Cunningham: Certainly on a non-partisan basis, because we're all concerned about the future of the children in the Province of Ontario.

Mr. McClellan: The little red school house is all yours.

Mr. Mancini: Aren't you concerned?

[4:15]

Mr. Cunningham: I think the time may have come when we really should seriously consider having a task force of some form to look into, not just the curriculum as it exists today, but also the whole administration of a student's time in school.

In travelling to the various schools and speaking at them, you really see kind of a country club type of existence. I began to see the advent of this during the last few years of my time at high school, and it seemingly appears to be even more prevalent today. I have a younger brother who is in his last year or second last year, and he really only requires about four or five classes a day. That is the total of his participation at the school.

From my point of view, I don't think we are maximizing either our facilities, our teachers, or the abilities of our students through that kind of system. The free time possibly is good for the superior student, but for that student who needs greater direction, I think more time and more direction are required.

Strictly on a curriculum basis, I am very concerned about the basic ignorance of so many of our students about Canadian studies, and, as I have said before, about the study of our own heritage here in Ontario—one that I know very many of us feel to be an extremely rich one. It is one that could

compete with that of other countries, and certainly that of the United States with very little difficulty, if it was brought forth to the students. Possibly the difficulty that we have there, the reluctance by teachers to teach Ontario history, is a lack of interest, maybe the lack of a compulsory incentive—and, as well, maybe a lack of training by our teachers in that particular area.

In any event, I think you could say, without being excessively general in your comments, that the inability or the reluctance of our teachers to teach Ontario and Canadian studies is somewhat like a cycle in the nature of poverty—we are poor because we are poor. When our teachers aren't being trained in this particular area, it is a self-perpetuating type of problem.

Those of us who live in areas close to the United States and are served by American television should have cause to be very concerned about this, because it's the kind of trend I think will erode our heritage and one that will not serve our national interests very well.

On the subject of mathematics, I think very few of us would disagree that some of our students are lacking the basic fundamentals in that regard. The fact that the universities are offering a number of—

Mr. Foulds: Some kids can't tell time.

Mr. Cunningham: —remedial courses at the universities to bring them up to a standard that would be acceptable, I think is evidence of this. I think the same thing holds true in English. I certainly found during my years in high school that there was only half of one year dedicated to the study of basic English grammar and the balance was for English literature. I think this is an area where some standard across the province might be invoked and some greater consideration be given for the general English principles, business letter writing, and so on. These are the kind of things that would leave a person so much better trained when they leave the secondary system. People are not necessarily university-bound as a result of their participation in high school. That may be all the education they require at that time. Certainly everybody who leaves a system of education after 13 or 14 years should be properly educated in that regard.

I certainly think a number of members probably have had problems with people who have been ripped off by various consumer gimmicks, and so on. They find it increasingly more difficult to live on a fixed income or a low income as a result of a poor educa-

tion. Possibly we should consider a greater emphasis on consumer education courses within our high schools.

It was only the other day that I had a young couple come in to see me who have been married for, I think, three or four years. They haven't had the time to buy a house, and to this date they are in debt somewhere in the area of \$7,000 or \$8,000. At one time the debt figure was \$10,000. I think their dilemma stems from just basic ignorance. Possibly some consumer education on their part during their high school years would have helped them to a great extent.

I am concerned, as well, about the reluctance of the ministry to see that wherever possible physical fitness, physical education, is a compulsory type of programme right up to grade 13. Associated with this, I think some form of health studies or a contemporary morals course would be—

Mr. Shore: What about egg-throwing contests?

Mr. Cunningham: Is that what they do there now? Those would be of benefit to our students and more appropriately, I think, would serve us all in later years in life. I think these are habits which would be very helpful.

One of the drawbacks of participating in debate as a new member here is the fundamental discourtesy I see from several of the members of the opposition. The member for Port Arthur who is currently pounding his desk in a very appropriate and skilled fashion, I want to tell you, is one of the most controversial members in this particular regard and one who, I think, demonstrates that discourtesy on a regular basis. To that end I want to thank him for his participation.

Before I do conclude—

Mr. Foulds: On a point of privilege, Mr. Chairman, it was my understanding that we had an agreement between the parties that we would leave at least an hour for the \$1.7 billion we're spending on school business and finance. That agreement was shot to blazes by the Liberal Party on Thursday night and again this afternoon.

Mr. Ferris: On a point of privilege, Mr. Chairman, we agreed to split an hour and a half of the time left when we made the agreement—that would be 45 minutes each—and I do recognize that a slight discrepancy has occurred.

Mr. McClellan: Slight?

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Chairman, if I may continue for about a minute and a half, I would like to say to the member that my function here isn't to participate in some sort of deal that my House leader or your House leader or the government—

Mr. Foulds: As long as it is on the record that the House leader made a commitment that your members—

Mr. Cunningham: That's going on the record, my friend, because I want to tell you my function in this Legislature is to represent the people of Wentworth North and I will not be party to some deal that my House leader or your House leader or the government House leader has made. My function isn't to be responsible to them; it is to be responsible to the people of Wentworth North.

Mr. Foulds: Terrific. That's just great.

Mr. Warner: Why don't you run as an independent?

Mr. Foulds: Why don't you do like Ron Knight, the former member for Port Arthur, and declare yourself independent?

Mr. Acting Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Cunningham: I would like to say before I conclude, if the members will afford me that opportunity—

Mr. Bullbrook: The same thing happened last week. We gave Lewis 45 minutes when he wasn't entitled to it.

Mr. Cunningham: —I would conclude very briefly by expressing my concern about the lack of testing or monitoring which occurs in the province. I think the areas of Ontario which are poorly served by this lack of testing are possibly the areas in the rural communities and more specifically in northern Ontario. I think that if we had some small part of the student's assessment to be judged, maybe initially on a voluntary basis, but very quickly, I would hope, on some compulsory basis, we might identify those areas which are not being served well and where certainly some improvements could be made to make sure that no student in the Province of Ontario is put in a position of disadvantage by virtue of his residence. I think the sooner we move to that kind of system, the sooner we'll be doing a better service to our provincial education system as a whole. Thank you very much.

Mr. Acting Chairman: Has any other member any discussion on item 2?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I want to make a couple of quick replies to some of those comments, Mr. Chairman. I didn't reply immediately following the comments of the member for Kitchener-Wilmot. I think he gave a very balanced presentation although in some areas perhaps he tended to stray over the line a bit, based on opinions of people which are not substantiated by any particular research.

I think, overall, his comments were balanced and he certainly stayed away from some of the more hysterical comments which some of his colleagues used in talking about this particular area, that is the area of the curriculum. Of course, he should, since he's been a director of education for a school board in this province and he himself was directly responsible for the academic achievement and the learning of the basics of the group of children in that particular area of Waterloo over which he had control. I've never heard that there have been any fewer criticisms from that area or any more criticisms. I guess Waterloo, as with any other area in this province, has criticisms about the way the basics are being taught in the schools or not being taught in the schools.

We talked a year ago about "The Formative Years" and he then gave some illustrations; I think I wrote him a letter back based on some of the comments he made at that time about the things that are in "The Formative Years." It is not intended to be a detailed day by day guidebook for teachers; rather it is an outline of the expectations and the aims and objectives of those years.

I really fail to see how anybody can say that the objectives of our school system are not outlined in that book. Perhaps you think it needs to be a 100-page book rather than a 36-page book, but I have talked to people who have said it is probably one of the clearest outlines of what the school system should be doing in the first six years and that it is pretty hard to argue that the basics are not indicated in there—that is the aims and objectives and the guidelines. A lot of work has to be done from there on in by people like you used to be—as directors of education and principals and teachers in schools—to develop the whole day-to-day programme that implements those objectives.

I think that that's what has been happening. You read a lot of quotations and I would like to read a quotation here. This is from the News; it says:

Teachers are more dedicated today than ever. Never before have we offered such a variety of programmes and such a range of learning opportunities. As I travel about the province I am constantly inspired by the excellence of elementary programming I see.

Teachers are better today than ever. We know more about the science of teaching. We push fewer students out of school. Students today read as well as, or better than ever and have a sense of personal worth and ability unsurpassed at any time. The public is overwhelmingly supportive. My experience on radio phone-in shows leads me to believe the supporters far outnumber the critics.

That quotation is from Neil Davis, the president of the Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Federation, a very fine teacher—certainly not a political supporter of mine—

Mr. Foulds: I am not surprised. I think he even ran against the Premier once.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —and a person who I think is a very objective and very good commentator on the educational scene. I would suggest that you perhaps read the whole article in there which perhaps gives another balance to this whole situation.

I am not trying to suggest that there are no problems. I think you and I agree that there are problem areas; there are places that need correction; there are things that need to be done in order to allay public fears in some areas and to reinforce programmes in the schools in others. I think we agree on that. To that end we in the ministry are taking steps to correct such areas.

I am just pointing out that the correcting doesn't involve taking the pendulum from away over here and pushing it away back over here. It really is a system of refinements and of corrections and of redirections.

I think the Canadian history situation that we talked about is a good one. When we said there should be two mandatory programmes of Canadian studies, it certainly was my idea—if you will read my comments at the time—and it was our idea in the ministry, that we were re-emphasizing the necessity of people having an understanding about Canada, the Canadian history and the Canadian way of life so that it could reinforce them as Canadian citizens. If that has gone astray, we will take steps to correct that. But that is not a drastic new direction, it is just really being sure that we define very carefully what the two credits in Canadian studies

are and that people at the schools are aware of them.

There is a whole vast array of things that are happening. They are happening, not with lightning speed because as I said earlier in my remarks, there are a lot of people involved in the education system in this province. You don't do things by just suddenly saying, "That's the way it will be." You have to involve teachers and trustees and administrators in the programmes and those things are happening now.

The whole area of evaluation is the subject of great study in our ministry and will be the subject of discussions over the next few months with people in the educational community as we work out a programme of solid and effective evaluation. That is what we are going to have in this province—not something that's designed for some expediency of the minute, but rather something that's educationally sound and will be of some value, not just for some political advantage of the minutes.

[4:30]

I realize we want to get on, Mr. Chairman, so before I sit down, I don't know whether we will get an opportunity—

Mr. Bullbrook: I think your response was somewhat hysterical.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —I may not get an opportunity to comment on this before these estimates end but I'd like to introduce to members of the House one of our advisers in the Ministry of Education, who's here with us in the House today and who has done yeoman work as a consultant over quite a number of years.

We welcome many people to this House who've been here of recent vintage and are now doing other things in this province. This gentleman sat in this House, over here on the government benches, from 1943 to 1948. During that time he was Minister of Public Welfare and Minister of Health. His name is Dr. Percy Vivian and he was from the riding of Durham where he has lived all his life.

He's been working as a consultant in our ministry for the last four or five years and, as I say, is doing a very fine job particularly with the Windsor early identification project. He is liaising on that and he's now doing yeoman work in implementing this whole idea of early identification around this province. During these estimates, I wanted to introduce him to the House. He's

sitting in the gallery up here and I'm happy that he's here today.

Mr. Acting Chairman: Shall item 2 of vote 2902 carry? Carried.

On item 3, planning and research.

Mr. McClellan: Very quickly, in not more than five minutes, I want to try to bring a problem to the minister's attention, at least initially. I feel slightly desperate because of the shortage of time so I'll follow it up privately between the minister and me.

I want to raise the question of your priorities, within the context of your restraint programme, on planning for physical plant, for new school construction. It's my understanding that you have assigned priority to where there is new housing development—under AHAP, etc.—and that is at present the only new school construction you're willing to consider.

I want simply to bring to your attention a major problem in communities where there have been major demographic changes as a result of successive waves of immigration. I speak particularly of the downtown west end of Toronto. If I can try to be specific, the recent immigration of the Portuguese community into the downtown west end has fundamentally and dramatically altered the composition of a number of communities—that of my own riding of Bellwoods; St. Andrew-St. Patrick; Dovercourt; and Parkdale—and that shows up in the schools.

I want to point out and maybe use it as an example, Senhor Santo Cristo School, which is on the boundary of Bellwoods and Dovercourt ridings. It services the Portuguese community. It's a Roman Catholic separate school. About 90 per cent of the kids are of Portuguese background. The school consists entirely of portables. They are spread out over two locations with a main permanent portable and a number of satellite portables. There's a third location, a converted church across the road. It has been necessary to develop this facility because, as I've said, of the educational needs of the Portuguese community and the change in the composition of the community within the last five to 10 years.

Frankly, I doubt whether any other community in the province has such inadequate facilities as does the community serviced by Santo Cristo school. The portables, as I said, are spread over three locations and are separated by a major traffic artery, Dovercourt Rd., which the kids have to cross

eight times a day. A tremendous amount of time is lost simply in travel. For the classrooms, particularly in the converted church, there are no security facilities and it's impossible to keep hoodlums and thugs out of the school. It simply wasn't designed as a school. Thugs and drunks have entered the classrooms and disrupted the classes. They have entered the washrooms and lain in wait for kids in the washrooms. I can go on and on, but because of time constraints I won't.

That is the result of a failure to address yourself, as a ministry, to the kinds of problems that occur when recent demographic changes are not taken into account and when communities which have experienced those kinds of changes are not accorded a priority in school construction. I point to that as an example. It's the most awful that's come to my attention.

We do not have an edifice complex, at least in this caucus, and we are not urging you to undertake an enormous programme of school construction. Generally, we're not too uncomfortable with the restraint, but we have to take into account real problems in real communities. I will send you additional material with respect to this particular community and ask you to give a consideration in establishing your priorities for new schools to the reality of new immigration to this community and to other communities across the province.

Mr. Conway: Just a brief comment, Mr. Chairman, and I'll allow others to participate in this debate as it winds to an end.

I just want to isolate one particular matter, a very serious concern to not only school and teaching officials in the county which I represent, Renfrew, but to others in the neighbouring county of Lanark who have communicated with me.

You probably have in your possession, or should have, a letter from the chairman of the Renfrew County Board of Education, dated May 19, 1976. Without taking a great deal of time, I want to register my very strong disapproval of the lack of communication which your ministry has seen fit to offer to the people of Renfrew county, who have been arguing with you since that meeting in February in Ottawa where they made a very determined argument for special consideration, given the nature of the far-flung reaches of our unique county, with particular reference to the lack of assessment.

It grieves me no little bit, and it disappoints the members of the educational com-

munity in Renfrew county to a very considerable degree, to think that the negotiations undertaken at that time, whereby you and various officials, including your parliamentary assistant, suggested that there would be perhaps special consideration for the unique problems faced by the board in Renfrew county and in neighbouring Lanark, paying particular attention to the problems of transportation and the like. That you have not deemed it fit or advisable to communicate a definite answer some three months subsequent to the initial inquiry is, I think, a condemnatory position and one of which I shall take pain to remind you and the government of which you are a member at the appropriate time in the future. I want to tell you that the good people of Renfrew and Lanark counties have every reason to feel and to believe that you are not particularly interested in reacting or willing to react to the unique and special problems of those counties.

I do hope that you find time between now and the very near future to respond to the board chairman's letter of May 19 and any other communications which relate thereto, because I think the special problems of our particular area deserve, if not the accommodation of the government, at least the expected courtesy of a response. I thank you.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me say, Mr. Chairman, it's one thing to communicate; it's another thing to give people what they want. I have been in communication with people in both those areas and we've looked very carefully at their particular problems. I'm sorry if they felt that somehow some special accommodation was going to be made. I think that we have told everybody in this province that no special accommodations can be made—that the grant plans which were announced were the same plan that we talked about around the province in meetings with the various trustees. I personally met someone from the Renfrew county board down here. The member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski) has been very diligent in talking to me about the problems of Renfrew county daily—

Mr. Conway: That sabbatical stuff?

Hon. Mr. Wells: —and indeed brought down one of the trustees—

Mr. Conway: That's the kind of commitment—

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

Mr. Conway: Sabbaticals! What about them?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me just say to my friend, when he can equal the kind of service that the member for Renfrew South has given—

Mr. Conway: I hope I never see the day.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —to this province. Well, I tell you when you are young and wet behind the ears, it is very—

Mr. Bullbrook: I find that hysterical. I find that hysterical.

Hon. Mr. Wells: All right, it is very—

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Conway: How can you say that? What about the sabbaticals?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. Let's return to the estimates.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is very easy to make comments like that, but when you—

Mr. Conway: What about the sabbaticals?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —have had the years of service of the member for—

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Perhaps we could return to the estimates.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —Renfrew South, perhaps then you can consider making the kind of comments that you have made about him.

Mr. Conway: If you can support that sabbatical statement—

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. Let's return to the estimates of this ministry and this vote.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We are not talking about sabbaticals. We are talking about a member of this House discharging his duty, to make known to the minister the concerns of the people of Renfrew county and the concerns of the board of education for Renfrew county. I am telling you that those concerns are made daily to me by that member.

Mr. Conway: Why don't you write the board chairman?

Hon. Mr. Wells: And we have talked about that and I have talked about—

Mr. Conway: Why support—

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order. Will the hon. member restrain himself and would the minister continue?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I have talked about it with others in the area, and the director of education has been communicated with. Similar things have happened in Lanark. It is very nice to be able to come in here and try to make a great case out of the fact—

Interjection.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —that some letter hasn't been answered, but I tell you the message has been transmitted. Now, it has to be said that the concerns that were outlined by Renfrew and Lanark counties—and other areas in this province—about inequities in this year's grant regulations will be taken into consideration for next year. Certain things like transportation grants and other things that may be causing a problem in these particular areas will be considered for next year.

Mr. Conway: It may be causing problems at their expense.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me say, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Conway: You lost one seat!

Hon. Mr. Wells: —let me just say, Mr. Chairman, that my friend from Bellwoods certainly raises a very valid point. I guess we have spent more time talking about school accommodation problems in west Toronto than anywhere else in the Province of Ontario. I am sure he is aware that over the last couple of years, many meetings have been held—and I have been present at most of them—with public and separate school boards concerning the total accommodation problems in the west section of Toronto. It's an area where sharing needs to be considered, but has not been accepted fully by either board, although they have made great accommodations. However, and after much study they have arrived at what I think are some very helpful situations that will allow us to accommodate students at much less cost than would be necessary if we had to go completely without some of the sharing concept.

Now, I had meetings with the Metro school board about their capital programmes about a week and a half ago, and will be meeting with the separate school board this Friday, if I recall. We will be talking about Senhor Santo Cristo and the other capital projects that they have. I am sure, as my

friend understands, the Metro board has a total programme which it has put into us, and the priorities that it establishes also have to mesh with ours, realizing that we can't build everything that everybody wants and, therefore—

Mr. McClellan: Sharing is not the whole answer. That's the only point that I was trying to make.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, sharing is not the whole answer, and it isn't one of the answers in Senhor Santo Cristo. But I can tell you in the other situations that we have been looking at, there is going to have to be some building done. Six million dollars in building with the sharing agreements can satisfy all the problems, if those sharing agreements go by the board, to do everything that everybody wanted would cost \$13 million. When you take the two, I think there should be an accommodation. The sharing arrangement should be able to work and we should be able to build those three schools that we're talking about by sharing and save nearly \$7 million.

[4:45]

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Item 3 agreed to.

On item 4, vote 2902.

Mr. Stong: In view of the constraints on our time, while I do have quite a few remarks to make with respect to this aspect of special education that deals with children with specific learning disabilities, I'll restrict myself to a simple question.

In light of the fact that experts tell us that specific learning disabilities involve 10 per cent of our student population which is about three in each classroom; in light of a study that was made in the United States very recently, concerning three different states which brought to light that between 80 and 90 per cent of inmates incarcerated in penal institutions suffer from specific learning disabilities; in light particularly of the fact that I have letters in my file over the signature of the Minister of Education wherein he passes the responsibility of educating children with specific learning disabilities to the Ministry of Social and Community Services, which he knows very well refuses to accept the responsibility under vocational rehabilitation because these children are not being specifically trained for induction into the employment market; in light of all these situations, what is the ministry intending to do this year with respect to setting up extended teacher training so

that there will be early diagnosis of these children and early treatment in the lower grades?

I'm not asking that we set up a programme of segregation. We are interested in a programme of integration into the existing facilities. What is the minister doing in this regard on this vote?

Hon. Mr. Wells: The ministry has six summer courses in special education going on in six different locations in this province. As I mentioned earlier, we have just completed the Windsor early identification project, which was a pilot project conducted in the Windsor area having to do with the early identification of children with learning disabilities and special education problems. There is presently an implementation programme going on across this province to encourage boards using this as a prototype to embark upon a programme of early identification in their particular jurisdiction. There is no question that it is a very top priority and a very vital concern that teachers and boards have programmes to identify students with learning disability problems in the very early years of education.

There is also a compulsory part of the basic programme at our OTEC institutions at Hamilton and Toronto concerned with special education, that will be implemented in those programmes this fall. I could go on and on. There are many things happening in our area of special education. The area that the member alluded to concerning responsibilities of the Ministry of Community and Social Services is really in regard to a very narrow number of students. It is an area where there is concern by parents that the only programme that can help those students is in a residential school, usually outside of this country. In some cases there is a difference of opinion in school boards as to whether or not they can provide an adequate kind of programme.

Let me say that, while we haven't reached perfection here, certainly we haven't, there are many special education programmes going on across this province. There are about 211,000 students in some form of special education. There is special money available through the special education weighting factor to boards, money which goes above their grants and which they wouldn't be receiving if they didn't have those programmes.

Our special education branch is constantly working with the local school boards which, of course, must initiate and administer the programmes in special education. There is a

lot going on and a lot more will be happening.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall item 4 carry?

On item 5. Any discussion?

On item 6, educational programmes and the developmental centres.

On item 7:

Mr. Mancini: I am sorry, I thought it was item 8. I am after item 8, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall item 7 carry?

On item 8:

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, I am going to take only about 30 seconds. I realize the minister probably has met with some teacher groups concerning the certification and the green contract. Due to what I believe has been a misuse of this green contract, I would like the minister to give us an update on what's going on. If he feels he doesn't want to take the time now, I would be glad to speak to him after. Does he propose to make any changes or introduce any special legislation so this never happens again?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, let me say that I met with the teachers from the Essex county board, the Essex county Roman Catholic separate school board, the Lincoln county board and the Roman Catholic separate school board on Friday evening. I have also had discussion with some of the members of the Lincoln Roman Catholic separate school board and the director of the Essex Roman Catholic separate school board. There is certainly a very confused situation here.

There appear to be some areas of obvious concern about the use of the probationary contract and it is my intention to appoint someone to look into this matter quickly within the next week. I intend to appoint someone in the next few days to look into this matter and report back to me on whether there were abuses of the green contract, abuses of hiring procedures and whether we should establish some different ground rules for hiring from teachers' colleges and so forth.

We need more information, however, on these particular areas to clarify the facts. I have discussed this course of action with the teachers in the area and they were agreeable to this and indicated they would co-operate completely.

Mr. B. Newman: On the same item, Mr. Chairman, a very brief question of the min-

ister which relates to certification of teachers of a third language.

The minister is aware of the concern of certain ethnic groups that they have certified teachers in their specific languages so that they could get credit courses in their languages in the secondary schools. How has that progressed?

Hon. Mr. Wells: We don't have that information. I had better get it for the hon. member.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Is there any further discussion on any other item in vote 2902, from 9 to 13?

Mr. Foulds: Yes, Mr. Chairman, on item 11.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: We will assume that 9 and 10 are carried. On item 11, the hon. member for Port Arthur.

Mr. Foulds: I have about an hour and a quarter, Mr. Chairman, but I will cram it into the next five minutes. I feel very strongly about what has happened in these estimates. Here we have item 11 for \$1.7 billion, out of a budget of \$1.9 billion. It's not through the ministry's fault but the fault of the Legislature itself that we will be passing this vote in five minutes; that seems to me to be disgraceful.

We have spent considerable time and considerable energy researching what has happened because it seems to me that if you look at this document, the spending estimates of the ministry, and you look at this vote and you wanted to talk about the power structure of the ministry versus boards you'd say the boards get all the money, therefore that is where the power must lie. But if you look at the Education Act, which is the legislation which distributes the power, you obviously know that the power lies within the ministry.

I have before me considerable documentation about the effects of the minister's statement of Dec. 18. I won't give you the framework and the assumptions that we had to make, because it would take me five minutes to do that, but basically one of the things that we have found is that if you look across the province in the elementary public school panel, the board assessments per pupil at the elementary level increases at the local level about 25 per cent. It affects what we call the rich and the poor boards about equally, ranging from Ottawa, which appears to be the wealthiest board at the elementary panel level, with an increase of 24.9 per

cent per pupil at the local levy, to 23.3 per cent at Hornepayne, which is the poorest at the local levy.

But that takes into account only the recognized ordinary expenditure increase. The interesting thing, it seems to me, is that in the secondary school panel the levy per pupil increases dramatically from the so-called rich boards—the ones with high local assessments at Metro—where the increased levy per pupil is an increase of 18.1 per cent while Hornepayne, the board least able to afford it, has to levy an increase of 42.7 per cent at the local level per pupil. That is the change they have to implement simply to keep up with the kind of programmes that they were administering last year and, assuming that they are spending at the ceiling level—to keep it consistent so your comparisons can be consistent—Hornepayne has to increase the local levy per pupil by 42.7 per cent.

What that shows to us is that as the relative wealth of a board decreases the property tax portion increase over last year rises and levels off in that panel at about 30 per cent. It seems that all boards with average or higher assessments benefited from the 95 per cent guarantee. It is this fact and this guarantee which causes the disparity between the rich and poor boards. Rich and poor actually mean urban and rural, since it is the absence of a significant amount of commercial and industrial assessment that makes a so-called poor board poor.

Specifically, the 95 per cent guarantee is not a bad idea and it causes us in the opposition some problems, since we should not be opposed to it. Without it boards such as Metro, which is now receiving fewer dollars per student than last year, would be getting even less. Assuming Metro spent to the ceiling this year and last, the 95 per cent guarantees that Metro would be getting \$39.55 less per pupil in 1976 than in 1975. Without the guarantee, had the straight rate of grant been applied, Metro would be receiving \$154.36 less, and such an abrupt decrease would be intolerable.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Could I draw to the hon. members' attention that the time for committee has expired? Shall this vote carry?
[5:00]

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, may I rise on a point of order? My point of order is that an agreement had been made to spend one hour of discussion of education financing. We have spent just about five minutes on this matter of \$3 billion being spent by the

school boards of this province with some 40 per cent of that being raised in taxation. This year we have a substantial change in policy to shift a substantial percentage of the expenditure of boards back to the property tax.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Would the member state his point of order?

Mr. Swart: We should honour the agreement that was made and that we should have another hour of this House to spend on this very important subject.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking now not as the person presenting these estimates but in my role as acting House leader today. If the proposition is being put forward to do that, I think there's no objection as long as everybody agrees as to exactly what that entails. It means that the parties are agreeable to taking an hour off something else and we continue on with these estimates on Thursday at 3 o'clock rather than beginning the estimates of the Ministry of Health.

If that's agreeable, then I think that that's all right, but we have to realize that that's what it entails.

Mr. Breithaupt: The difficulty is the one raised by the Minister of Education, particularly in that there is a very short amount of time left to deal with the estimates in this policy field. I am prepared to discuss it with the government House leader and with the House leader of the New Democratic Party and, if an agreement can be reached, we could continue for that hour. We shall make sure that that is discussed well in advance so that the minister will be able to give the necessary notice to the members of his staff who would otherwise be inconvenienced, if they had to show up here and find that we were not going to deal with the matter.

It will depend particularly on what other area is to be cut. It may not prove to be practical to make the change but we'll certainly discuss it.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: In view of the discussion raised, I would suggest that the committee rise and report pending consultation among the three House leaders.

Mr. Foulds: Before the committee rises and reports, I should point out, and it may be something that the House leaders could take into effect for the coming year, that the Education estimates have never been in

committee in the five years that I've been in the House. It might be worthwhile next year to put Education estimates into committee rather than in the House.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed, Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of supply begs to report progress and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to assent to certain bills in her chambers.

Clerk of the House: The following are the titles of the bills to which Her Honour has assented:

Bill 25, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act.

Bill 62, An Act to amend the Planning Act.

Bill 76, An Act to amend the Personal Property Security Act.

Bill 77, An Act to amend the Vital Statistics Act.

Bill 82, An Act to amend the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act.

Bill Pr7, An Act respecting McMaster University.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR:

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Mr. MacDonald moved second reading of Bill 22, An Act to provide for Freedom of Information.

Mr. MacDonald: On Friday at adjournment hour, the government House leader (Mr. Welch) outlined the business for this week. In noting that we were going to have a private members' hour at 5 o'clock on Monday, he said it was going to be an historic debate. I am a little curious as to exactly what he had in mind, but in my

final words this afternoon I have a suggestion for him as to how he can really make his words prophetic and turn this into an historic debate.

A year ago, on June 9, as recorded on pages 2733 to 2743 in Hansard, this bill was last debated. I note that date and that place in Hansard for purposes of continuity and for assistance to those who have a continuing interest in this topic. At that time, spokesmen for all parties supported the principle of the bill.

During the past year, I must say I have been most interested and deeply encouraged by the kind of response I've had to this bill from all across the country—from organizations ranging from the Ontario Press Council to the Law Reform Commissions in several of the provinces; from a growing number of politicians, officials, students, undergraduate students and staff members at university level, as well as members of the general citizenry. There have been letters and telephone calls of query, seeking copies of the debate, seeking a copy of the bill.

It's no exaggeration, I am convinced, to say that all across this nation, at both the provincial and the federal levels, there is a growing consensus—not only an interest but a growing consensus—that we've reached a point where there is need for a statute, a freedom of information law.

Therefore, I am a little puzzled, quite frankly, and I've reason to believe a lot of people share that puzzlement, as to why there is such reluctance on the part of governments to move in that direction.

The principle of the bill can be simply stated. Governments have tended to operate on the assumption that all information is secret except what they choose to make public. Precisely the reverse should be the case—all information should be public except for certain categories which may legitimately be kept secret. That was the principle of the bill last year and that, in essence, in summary, is the principle of the bill which the House is going to deal with this year.

I'm not going to take the time to go into a great detailing of the one area in which I concede there can be room for controversy, for disagreement. That is the area for exemptions. Admittedly, when one is striking a balance between the public's right to be informed and its right to be protected against the abuse of that information, there is a judgemental area where honest disagreement can take place.

This bill draws on the considerable experience of other jurisdictions where similar legislation has been on the statute books for some time. I would invite those who are interested to go back and to read my views and the views of others on the area of exemptions. I'm not going to repeat them today because I think there's a lot of new material which should be brought into the picture.

Secondly, I would like to note that this bill, once again, opts for the use of the Ombudsman as the arbiter when there is a difference of opinion as to whether or not information can legitimately, under the statute, be made public. Hon. members of the House may be aware of the fact that in the United States there is an alternative option; that is, they go to the courts. That can be lengthy; it usually is costly and, as this bill points out in section 4,

Where a person has requested an official document that is exempt under section 3 [that's where the exemptions are listed] and that document is not produced, the person may apply to the Ombudsman under the Ombudsman Act, 1975, for review as to whether the document should continue to be exempt under section 3.

One other point, that I think should be borne in mind, is that the exemptions are spelled out but I don't think they need to be treated as a straitjacket. In other words, it may well be, as section 4 of the Act notes, that changing circumstances will make a piece of information which has been legitimately secret now eligible for public revelation. Therefore, it seems to me that the executive can, at any point, decide that those circumstances are changed or, for any other reason it deems appropriate, reveal certain information so that the public will have the benefit of it.

Without going into any further detail of the bill, which can be read from last year's record, in the remainder of my time I'd like to move into discussing the broader political context.

In recent years all governments, at least practically all governments, have been reviewing their communication policy. I remind the House that one of the areas in which the Committee on Government Productivity, the so-called COGP, made a rather thorough investigation, as reported in interim report No. 7, was the communication policy of the Province of Ontario. They deplored it for being in desperate need of some overhauling

or some streamlining. They noted the reasons why there is traditionally an atmosphere of secrecy with regard to government information in the British tradition, and why we should move in the direction of reducing that secrecy as much as possible.

In Ottawa, there have been a number of approaches to the problem. The last and perhaps the most comprehensive was the so-called Wall report, which looked into the whole issue and made some recommendations. It's interesting to note that all of these studies, particularly the COGP here in Ontario and the Wall report in Ottawa, came to the same conclusion. They stressed the need for a statement of policy, but then they stopped short of the need for a statute, such as the House is now considering. To be fair, the COGP didn't speak to the issue directly. They didn't even discuss whether or not a statute might be an appropriate way of enshrining a statement of policy. They just called for the statement of policy. In the instance of the Wall report, they did come to the conclusion that at least at this stage a statute was not necessary.

I am puzzled by that conclusion. Quite frankly the logic of it rather escapes me. Surely we are past the stage where the public's right to information, a basic need in any working democracy, should be left to a general statement, no matter how eloquent that statement may be. Surely the time has come to enshrine this principle, not only in a statement of communication policy, but also in a statute which sets forth as clearly as possible what those rights are and how they can be upheld.

Having said that, I want to move now to some acknowledgement of what appears to be the position of perhaps the most important man in this government, namely the Premier. At the conclusion of last year's debate, the hon. member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Gaunt) was speaking, and he said, to be found on page 2743 of Hansard:

I think that all members, if they stop to think about it, would support this kind of legislation. In view of the fact government members have indicated that support, I would suggest that next session round, if the government is still of the same mind—

And at that point he was cut off by his neighbour, the Hon. E. A. Winkler, the late and perhaps lamented Chairman of Management Board, who said, "We will be"—namely of the same mind. "We will be, we will; don't worry."

Now, I assume, since Mr. Winkler was Chairman of Management Board, and therefore a key person in the cabinet, that he was

speaking for what might be described as the executive council view on this.

Mr. Worton: Incidentally, he is still in good health. I saw him a week ago.

Mr. MacDonald: He is not only in good health, but I think he'll be back in the fray. You might just remind your friend behind you of that, if he needs it.

I am puzzled, because there have been a number of statements by the Premier (Mr. Davis) during the past year suggesting, not too explicitly, that there was not need for a freedom of information Act. A clincher was, perhaps, a CFTO special documentary or special telecast that was done some three or four weeks ago in which they brought in Jed Baldwin, who has been pursuing this issue in Ottawa, myself, and then Premier Davis. I just want to give you two quotes from the transcripts of that debate or that interview. Premier Davis said at one point:

I don't think there is, but I think there are some people who feel there is too much secrecy. I think actually there is a great deal of public information. In fact, more public information than probably either the media or the public can assimilate.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it may be that in that Niagara of information that pours out from this government in all its various ministries, there is too much and the public are a little confused. But, surely, that doesn't remove the necessity or the right of a person to get information on a specific point that they are interested in. Let me read you the next quote of the Premier:

[5:15]

You wouldn't have people who want to give their personal views who are in government to cabinet, say for debate or a discussion, who then want to be identified in a personal way with these points of view. I think it would make the whole decision-making process more difficult. I think it would inhibit it and I don't think you get as good material coming to cabinet or in the budget process or anywhere else, if the moment after these decisions are made, you would then have to release the documentation and justify it on the basis of any printed material you might have.

In other words, the position of the Premier was that we really have too much information now and, secondly, that it would be inhibiting in the decision-making process, if it was believed that all of the background

material that the government used in coming to a decision was going to be made public for the consideration of the legislators or for the consideration of the general public.

In striking contrast to that, I want to draw the attention of the House, in case they missed it, to the study paper that was presented to the annual meeting of the Conservative Party on May 14 to 16 of this year.

Mr. Breagh: What was the vote on that?

Mr. MacDonald: It indicates that there was general support for this proposition. It was a study paper prepared by Bill Neville who used to be in PR work with the government here and is now chief of staff in Joe Clark's office in Ottawa. He's moved from one area of the Tory hierarchy to another.

Let me quote, because I think it gives it most succinctly in the first two or three paragraphs of the Globe and Mail's story on Monday morning, May 17.

Pressure to open to the public more of the files of the Ontario Government is mounting within the Progressive Conservative Party.

Greater openness in government has long been demanded by the opposition parties, but the idea of special legislation to guarantee freedom of information drew surprisingly little objection at a policy session at a weekend conference of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Association.

Mr. Conway: Gord Walker thought it was a Communist plot.

Mr. MacDonald: The report says:

"It's healthier to face the embarrassment of misinformation than to go ahead with policies founded on wrong information and data," said Darwin Kealey, former chief researcher for Premier William Davis and a defeated Tory candidate in the last provincial election.

The Premier, he noted, talked about freedom during his major speech to the conference on Friday night.

"There's another freedom—the freedom to be informed. The whole process has to be a little more open."

The interesting thing, and again I just want to give you a couple of brief quotes, is that this study paper which apparently drew the general approval of at least those who bothered to come to consider the study paper at that clambake the Conservatives held, dealt with two things. One was the right of the public to be able to share in the decision-

making process by having information in advance. For example, let me quote from the study paper:

The question is not that governments and legislatures should give up their right and their responsibility to make decisions; the issue is the right of citizens to have the opportunity, when they so wish, to have input to and influence upon those decisions.

The first requirement, if that legitimate goal is to be met, is that citizens know that decisions on issues of concern to them are under consideration. Consultation after government has made up its mind and is firmly committed to a particular course of action is no consultation at all. Therefore, there is a need for openness by government at the front end of the process in letting the public know what is on the decision-making agenda at any point in time. [That was point 1. Then he moved on:]

If the agenda is known, the next major requirement is for access to information. Citizens and interest groups can hardly have a meaningful policy discussion with government if one side [meaning the government] jealously guards the data on which the policy response supposedly will be based. We need a freedom of information policy and perhaps freedom of information legislation.

Freedom of information, lest there be any doubt, does not mean—

And I note this because there have been articles in the *Globe and Mail* and elsewhere with regard to this kind of statute in the United States, suggesting that it created a horrendous bureaucracy and was very costly—

—an expensive and wasteful programme in which government bombards its citizenry with reams of policy paper. In most cases, frankly, citizens aren't that interested. The key is to ensure full access to information when citizens themselves take the initiative in wanting to participate in a policy discussion which they feel is of significant interest to them.

Freedom of information is above all to move away from the current tendencies, where virtually all information is de facto unavailable to the public unless there is a special decision to make it public and where the rationale for such confidentiality often amounts to little more than a bureaucratic disinclination to permit their work to stand the test of public scrutiny.

I couldn't have put it better myself. And that comes from a study paper that received the general approval of the Conservatives at their annual meeting.

I suggest that the time has come for this government to respond to the growing public concerns in this area. Here is a chance for the government of Ontario to pioneer. It speaks of itself as being a leading province.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: True.

Mr. MacDonald: Surely it is time for it to lead. Here, if we are going to make this an historic debate and therefore make the words of the government House leader prophetic, that it is going to be an historic debate, it really can be by our moving to accept this bill. Change it as you see fit, because I would be the first to say that experience will be our best guide as to certain of those controversial areas of exemption. Let the government bring in its own bill, and pass it so that the Province of Ontario can pioneer in being the first jurisdiction in this country, federal or provincial, in having a Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Bounsall: It's usually seventh or eighth.

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to stand in support of the principle which has just been capably outlined by the preceding speaker and I want to make a few comments pertinent to this particular bill.

I feel, as a new leader and as a person relatively new in politics as well, that one of the things that has most shocked me has been the degree to which ordinary information, which is available to the government, which is paid for by the tax moneys of every citizen of this province, information gained by consultants who take time out from their university or their industrial jobs and work with the government to help it achieve better policy—that the information of all these people can be kept secret for no reason whatsoever other than the protection of the government from embarrassment.

I think this is one of the things that has shocked me, as a sort of outsider who has come into politics, more than perhaps it has shocked some of the seasoned veterans such as the learned gentleman who presented this excellent bill. I think the citizens of this province just don't realize the extent to which the government can cynically withhold information which could do no harm to the public and to our system of government were it to become general knowledge, but

would merely be useful for all of us so that we could understand the basis on which the government reaches its difficult decisions. We could, in fact, criticize intelligently and constructively, because we would have the same data in front of us.

I think it is really a pathetic situation that in 1976, the United States, with all its Watergate history and so on, should have freedom of information and in this great country and in this province—and frankly I criticize the federal government as much as the provincial government in this regard—should not have freedom of information, the very fundamentals upon which democracy can only be based.

With regard to the actual bill I have a few questions about it. I am not sure that the information should be made available without cost. It might be better to have a moderate cost to cover these things.

I am also a little concerned about subsection 8 of section 3, because I feel that "Documents relating to policy decisions under consideration but not yet finalized" could be stretched to cover virtually everything, because heaven knows what policies might eventually be developed—and so on. I think personally I would rather have a council of some kind, a tribunal rather than the Ombudsman. But I could live with it the way it is here as well.

Those are trivial matters. In essence I am in complete agreement with the hon. member who has presented this particular bill, the member for York South.

I would like to quote what a professor at McGill University who studied this matter has pointed out—Professor Weigel: Today's secrecy is more political than anything else. It is used to serve and sustain the government in power.

I would like to point out that Mr. Jed Baldwin, the federal House leader of the Conservatives—and, of course, this is shared by Mr. Clark, the federal leader of that party—points out that the access challenge had been met in Sweden more than 100 years ago and government information has become a way of life in other Scandinavian countries and the United States. We have to reverse the present situation, he says, in which information in possession of the government starts off by being confidential and is not released until the government says so. Mr. Maloney, the Ombudsman, has made similar comments.

I want to give members an example of what happens when we have a government

which can manipulate information. I can appreciate the distinction drawn between information and intelligence and I can understand why the Minister for Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) would not want too much intelligence to be given out from his ministry. Intelligence, after all, is a commodity in very short supply in that ministry.

Still the fact is that there was an interesting example which I want to present to the House. Now that Bill 59 on private labs has been withdrawn, I thought the House and the one minister in the House might be interested in listening to this particular story. Members might want to know that on behalf of the citizens of Ontario, on Nov. 20, 1975, I asked the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller):

The Ministry has within its possession right now, and has not seen fit to release to the public, a report indicating that regionalized, publicly-oriented laboratories of a specialized nature are much more efficient and much cheaper than privately run ones. On some misguided notion that it is supporting private enterprise when it supports publicly paid for but privately-run laboratories the government refuses to make that report public. I look forward to seeing that report being tabled in this House.

Needless to say it was kept secret. On March 15, I asked again.

A question of the Minister of Health: Can he tell us how many reports he has received from within his ministry during the past five or six years, warning of a potential for abuse in the private laboratory system, given the payment system the ministry has adopted?

Again, we didn't receive it. He said there was no such thing.

On April 26, I asked again and finally we had an answer on April 26, from the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson) at that time. He asked me three days ago about a report of the Council of Health [I asked no such thing] about funding for lab services which purported to recommend tendering for that service." She went on to say there had been some reports from the Council of Health but there was nothing about tendering and she couldn't find anything at all. I said "I want to know the reports that have been produced by civil servants, between four and six reports, touching on the question of laboratory finances." Again there was no answer.

Finally, some days later, I had an answer saying, "Extract from the recommendations of the October, 1972, report of the task force on cost controls for medical laboratories." I was sent one sentence, beautifully centred on a piece of blank paper, by the acting Minister of Health. The sentence is

that, "Too many technical problems exist to attempt to introduce the universal tendering system of payment for laboratory services."

That might be interesting except, as it happens, that report has now fallen into my hands, not necessarily from the ministry but it happens that many outside people were involved in this particular report as well. That interesting sentence which was quoted, the one sentence I was sent, is part of a paragraph. The second sentence of the same paragraph reads, "This does not, of course, preclude the possibility of centralizing certain procedures in selected laboratories in the province." That was 4½ years ago.

It is interesting that with this particular report, if the acting Minister of Health had gone back one page, she would see all the deficiencies. Let me read what it says so that members will get the idea of what this means.

After examining the existing cost control measures exercised over laboratory costs, members unanimously felt that the following deficiencies existed [they list here eight deficiencies including] no control over the OMA fees set; no control over the number of laboratory procedures listed; no control over the growth of private and commercial labs.

And so on; there are eight of them. I won't read them all out because it is not the topic under discussion. The House was deliberately misled. Day after day I asked for the report. Day after day I was told it didn't exist, and eventually I was sent one sentence when—

[5:30]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I never deliberately misled the House.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member knows he can't make statements like that in the House. I'd ask him to withdraw those remarks that the House was misled. It's really a statement which is not allowed in here. I know it was unintentional, but I'll ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. S. Smith: I'll substitute for those statements: The House was given information which clearly was so partial in its nature that one could reasonably conclude that there was no genuine effort to inform the House fully of the matter which was being sought on behalf of the people of Ontario.

In point of fact, this goes on every day. There is a report, the so-called interministerial report, which shows the awful situation existing in the group homes of this province;

it shows the way in which we are overpaying for them under the Ministry of Health. Millions of dollars of public money are going down the drain every year on that particular matter. That report is being withheld, not because it can be in any way harmful to the public interest for that report to be given to us to look at, but simply because it would embarrass the government and show the kind of poor policy that they have had.

Mr. Speaker: Thirty seconds left.

Mr. S. Smith: As far as I'm concerned, I believe the citizens of this province would be shocked if they really understood the degree to which their millions of dollars have been spent for civil servants and consultants to produce facts which are withheld from them and from their elected representatives for no reason other than the protection of the government from embarrassment. That is a shocking, shocking indictment of this government and its attitudes towards the democratic process.

I support the principle of this bill.

Mr. Jones: Mr. Speaker, as I understand it this bill provides for public access to government documents, but more importantly, it deals with the citizen and his relationship to government. It opens up the whole question of the rights of citizens to influence the decisions of their government on matters of direct concern to them.

The bill underlines the essence of participatory democracy as I understand it, a democracy where people have the opportunity, when they wish, to have input into the influence upon those decisions made by their elected representatives. I have to refute and reject the comments just concluded by the leader of the Liberal Party in his pretence that the protection of the government is the reason and the only reason that some documents are not made public, as he puts out. Rather, I would like to remind the House that our government has recognized the need for openness before a course of action is taken.

Mrs. Campbell: When?

Mr. Jones: We've utilized such techniques as white papers —

Mr. Shore: Brown papers.

Mr. Jones: —draft legislation—yes, even brown paper. As the leader of the Liberal Party just outlined, it sounds as if he's having no problem getting papers and reports and information. But the legitimate techniques

being used by this government, such as proposals for reaction and discussion and response, are ample. We've utilized legislative committees for public hearings of reports before the government decides on a specific policy action.

For example, our rent review committee brought a forum for that legislation, through a legislative committee, for all sides to express their views. Subsequent to this public participation, amendments to the original legislation were made to reflect the consensus which was reached.

Mr. Haggerty: That's because you are a minority government.

Mr. Jones: This same format was used during the last session before the minority government that the member mentioned. We can come to this session and look at Bill 5 where representatives with widely divergent views presented their suggestions and opinions on the proposed legislation. As a member of that committee I remember them well; they were a cross-section of our community within this province.

Mr. Mancini: What about Ontario Housing?

Mrs. Campbell: Yes, what about Ontario Housing?

Mr. Jones: But citizens can hardly have a meaningful policy discussion with government if one side, government—and I make this admission—jealously guards the data on which the responsible policy is to be based. We need a freedom of information policy, I agree; and I would support freedom of information legislation.

Mr. Conway: Actions speak louder than words.

Mr. Jones: Now, the mover of this bill spoke to the paper presented at the recent party deliberations at the Inn on the Park, and I hope that this would not mean an expensive and wasteful programme, as he referred to, of government bombarding the citizens with endless reams of policy papers.

Also, along the lines that he mentioned as he read from this paper No. 7, it is important that the key would be to ensure full access to information when citizens themselves take the initiative in wanting to participate in policy discussions, which they feel are of significant interest to them.

There would, of course, be specific exceptions to the rule. There is, of course, the one on national security, reported in Hansard the last time this was debated in this House.

Also, there are the very important sections on personal privacy, and the like. But I feel, the hon. member from York South has well documented those exceptions.

I would like to point out at this time some things that we have accomplished in moving towards this freedom of information goal, as he has outlined for us this afternoon—more especially the individual participation in the decision-making process.

Mechanisms, such as royal commissions and task forces, have played a definite role in our system. We could take the Porter commission on Hydro, for example. It has held preliminary public meetings since last year, and those meetings have been a form of public participation in the long-range planning concept of Ontario Hydro for the period 1983 to 1993, and beyond.

Mr. Haggerty: Tell us in 1985.

Mr. Jones: The people affected in this area have been given the opportunity to participate fully in—

Mr. Reed: Why don't you tell the truth?

Mr. Jones: —in just what direction this province will take in the terms of Hydro planning. The Isbister commission, too, has involved the public in petroleum products pricing. The Election Finances Reform Act perhaps is the most pertinent example of government really opening up the whole system of financing during campaigns.

Mr. Shore: They have really snowed you.

Mr. Conway: Is it true Roy McMurtry supports motherhood?

Mr. Jones: And now any individual is at liberty to go through the files of each candidate in each constituency for information regarding expenditures and donations. One area that I would like to touch on this afternoon outlines even more fully just how our government is going to the people; going to those who will be affected—

Mr. Mancini: Come to my riding.

Mr. Jones: —before implementing legislation. We on this side of the House, did go to the public on a subject called alcohol and youth. I know I certainly have made my views clear. But there are a lot of members from that side and parties who would prefer to set it aside, I would suspect, in order to make a little political hay.

Mr. S. Smith: You are going to consult us about hospitals? How about consulting us about the AIB?

Mr. Jones: We went with an openness on this subject.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Shore: Did you ask for this job, or did you get conscripted?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is a time limit on each member's speech, and it's unfair to be interrupting as the members are. The hon. member will continue for another two minutes.

Mr. Gregory: The member for London North should behave himself.

Mr. Jones: As was referred to in the policy paper at our party's recent convention, we did indeed go to the public at large, who do have a right to know how their elected representatives will be approaching something as basic and as large a social concern as this subject is, and on whose behalf we do have to reach decisions. We did speak out rather clearly and make our thoughts known from one of the sections of our government as to what kind of recommendations we were making to this cabinet. It seems to me that this interaction between governments and special interest groups should take place and should be a pattern for the future on every opportunity that's possible in public on the broadest possible public basis.

It means, I would think—and again I'm talking to the member as I have read this bill and talked to it—that one thing that would have to be guarded as we approach this principle is that we would have to make certain that the interest or certain groups of citizens who would speak would have to give some evidence that they speak for the groups that they purport to be speaking for.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has just 30 seconds left.

Mr. Jones: In fact, it would mean a consideration of a lobbying registration legislation, legislation for that matter which was suggested by the federal Progressive Conservative caucus. In closing, I'd like to suggest that the whole issue of individual participation in government decision-making go even further.

Mr. Moffatt: Do you support the bill?

Mr. Samis: He didn't say so.

Mr. Jones: If we are to have citizen involvement in the decision-making process, then we should look perhaps to providing some funding so that legitimate citizens' con-

cerns can be heard and considered before the decisions are finalized.

Mr. Renwick: I know there are others who want to take part in the debate and I'll try to speak as rapidly as I can and deal with the bill.

First of all, I want to commend my colleague, not only because he is my colleague but also for his persistence in bringing this bill before the assembly time and time again, because at some point in time an equivalent of this bill will be enacted either by the present government or by the successor to that government.

An hon. member: We will look after it.

Mr. Renwick: I want to make three or four points which I think will be of significance, whether the bill is passed or whether it's not passed, in making certain distinctions which are involved in this bill. The bill only goes part way, and I agree that it should only go part way in the first instance. The key word is that an individual may request an identifiable document. Of course, that doesn't answer the problem of how you identify the document if it's hidden within the closets of the government.

The United States legislation attempts to deal with that further problem. I think we should be wise in this assembly if we took the first step proposed by the member for York South and tried to deal with it on an individual basis for a request for an identifiable document rather than for some form of register of all documentation within the government so that persons could see readily what the government did have available to it, and which might be of interest to an individual citizen of the community.

The next point, however, that I want to make more than any other is that, with the greatest respect for ourselves as politicians in the assembly, we as individuals have no greater right to override the public interest as the public interest may appear than anyone else does so that there is a legitimate problem which is faced by any government in deciding what information is to be available.

I think our problem is that it should not have taken so long for a bill to have been drafted which would have spoken to this question. I refer to comments because I think that whoever is called upon to make the decision, be it the Ombudsman or the court as to whether a document should or shouldn't be produced in the event of a

dispute, would be governed by the decisions of a case in the House of Lords as long ago as 1942.

Ad libbing just a little bit in relation to what the House of Lords said, Viscount Simon stated "the principle to be applied in every case is that the document must not be produced if the public interest requires that it should be withheld." I pause there for a moment to say that the course of events has led to us requiring a statutory change in the emphasis of that statement.

[5:45]

The principle today should, of course, be that the principle to be applied in every case is that documents must be produced unless the public interest requires that they should be withheld. It goes on to state what the test would be, and I think this is inherent in the bill of my colleague, the member for York South:

The test may be found to be satisfied either (A), by having regard for the contents of the particular documents, or (B), by the fact that the documents belong to a class which, on grounds of public interest, must, as a class, be withheld from production.

It sets it forth clearly, I think, in the various exemptions which are set out in the statutes. It uses both those tests as a method of determining which document should be exempt from the requirement of production and which should be produced if the public interest is not affected by it. It also goes on to say:

The essential matter is that the decision should be taken by the minister who is the political head of the department and he should have seen and considered the contents of the documents and himself have formed the view that on grounds of public interest they ought not to be produced either because of their actual contents or because of the class of documents to which they belong.

I think the point which has been of such concern to us sitting on this side of the House, over a long period of time, and which we believe reflects a very real concern by individual citizens and groups of citizens outside this assembly and in the Province of Ontario who want information, is that we believe we are obstructed in obtaining that kind of information by an arbitrary subconscious desire by the government to keep as much secret as possible.

I do want to point out to the government that should it choose to introduce this kind of legislation, the words of Viscount Simon are of significant importance. I quote:

I do not think it is out of place to indicate the sort of grounds which would not afford to the minister an adequate justification for objecting to the disclosure of documents.

It is not a sufficient ground that the documents are state documents or are official or marked confidential. It would not be a good ground that if they were produced the consequences might involve the department or the government in parliamentary discussion or in public criticism or might necessitate the attendance as witnesses or otherwise of officials who have pressing duties elsewhere.

Neither would it be a good ground that the production might tend to expose a want of efficiency in the administration or tend to lay the department open to claims for compensation.

In a word, it is not enough that the minister or the department does not want to have the documents produced. The minister, in deciding whether it his duty to object, should bear these considerations in mind for he ought not to take the responsibility of withholding production except in cases where the public interest would otherwise be affected adversely.

[He goes on at a later time:] After all, the public interest is also the interest of every subject, and while in these exceptional cases the private citizen may seem to be denied what is to his immediate advantage he, like the rest of us, would suffer if the needs of protecting the interest of the country as a whole were not ranked as a prior obligation.

It does seem to me that the case, so long ago—it was 1942—had very much the criteria, the indicia and the words which are required to give substance to the bill introduced by my colleague, the member for York South. I only reiterate what I began with—that we are always concerned, sitting in opposition, that a rule which has become a negative rule, which prohibits the disclosure of information or inhibits the disclosure of information, should be reversed by statute with proper safeguards to protect the public interest—which is the interest of all of us—but at the same time ensures that each individual in the society or any group of individuals in society, who believe themselves to have a legitimate interest in a matter which is of

government concern and concern to the society, should have the widest amplitude of documentation available to them for the purpose of furthering their views.

My own personal preference, of course, would be for the matter to go by an expeditious route before a judge of the divisional court. I think the divisional court, sitting as a single judge in the high court, would be quite a proper and appropriate place for the question of whether or not that disclosure would come within the terms of a statute adequately framed. That is the place where it should be done. It may well be that the assembly in its wisdom would decide that the Ombudsman is the person who should make that kind of decision, but whatever the decision and whatever the procedure is I urge the government—I am glad that the member for Mississauga West did indeed—did I get that right?

Mr. Gregory: North.

Mr. Jones: North.

Mr. Renwick: —Mississauga North (Mr. Jones)—would urge his colleagues to make certain that we do get this kind of bill before the assembly and get it passed, because it is of immense importance.

My last comment is I don't want anyone to think that it will necessarily solve the problem, because if you don't know of the existence of the identifiable document it is very difficult to ask for it, and a bill framed in this way will not really permit someone to go upon a fishing expedition. It may be that at some later time a further statute would be required requiring some public form of registry, public documentation registry, to be kept of those documents which are available and those which are available but not subject to being available to the public for reason that they are claimed to be within an exempt clause. But certainly as a first step—and as a major step, not as a first step, because in many cases the first step is the major step, we, of course, support the bill which is before the assembly.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, with a great deal of pleasure I join this debate to support the bill that is before us, to support the comments of my leader and to wonder aloud about the comments of the member for Mississauga North, because I find difficulty in following him in the light of the performance by so many of his colleagues.

Let me go back and tell you, Mr. Speaker, you know with me the problems we've had

in trying to find what the records of the Ontario Housing Corp. have had to say. There was a man Stan Randall; he wouldn't tell anybody anything. He was followed by a fellow named Allan Grossman; I've got a wonderful exchange of correspondence with Grossman over the years saying, "If you will tell me which particular act of corruption you are looking for I will let you see the minute in relation to that one."

The Minister without Portfolio now from—
Interjections.

Mr. Worton: Mr. Whatchamacallit.

Mr. Conway: The member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson).

Mr. Singer: —well, who succeeded Mr. Grossman. He wasn't conveying any more information than anyone else. And so it came as somewhat of a substantial surprise that the present Minister of Housing, the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Rhodes), made a prepared statement to a committee dealing with his estimates saying there was hope and maybe we could look at the minutes of Ontario Housing, and I commend him for that. It's the first ray of light we've had from the ministry in connection with freedom of information.

But you know what it took? It took someone like Mr. Justice Addy to ask, how can Ontario Housing act in the way it does and spend those exorbitant prices for land when by expropriation it would have saved the public millions of dollars? It took research by the Liberal caucus to show the tragedy of allowing people to make millions of dollars on public land purchases in a few months' period in South Milton. That's the kind of thing it took.

Have they learned their lesson? Of course they haven't learned their lesson. The divine right to govern still pervades their minds. I had this memo—and the hon. Leader of the Opposition referred to it earlier—this memo under the hand of James Taylor, QC, Minister of Community and Social Services. It's a beautiful thing. A document designed to shield from the public any information that it possibly could want. Just let me read two paragraphs of it:

"The public, including the media, have a right to know the dimensions and parameters of ministry services; facilities; the text of regulations . . ." Isn't that generous? We can see what the text of regulation is "under statutes." We can look at those too.

"Availability and qualification for services, etc." In other words, I suppose, if someone

is competing for a position he can find out whether it is available and what the qualifications are. Again, such generosity!

"Such information should be generally available through (a) approved publications; (b) information news releases; and (c) factual response by ministry representatives to media queries." And he draws the distinction between something called "information" and something else called intelligence; that's information.

Now we come to the next beautiful, beautiful paragraph. The member for Mississauga West—

Mr. Jones: You want to be careful. It's Mississauga North.

Mr. Singer: I wonder did he help draft this beautiful paragraph:

Reports, correspondence, conceptual ideas, proposals, programmes, projects, procedures and any other source or basis for communication that is subject to the authority of the minister will be deemed confidential until approved by him for publication. Such intelligence is not to be public knowledge unless and until considered by the minister.

The divine right to rule.

And there is the Minister for Correctional Services (Mr. J. R. Smith) who is in the middle, I gather, of some discussion with the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman investigated, not a pleasant offence, but an offence that took place in one of our penal institutions, gave a report to the minister as he is compelled to under the statute, and asked for the minister's permission to release it. The minister said no, he can't release that. It has nasty implications because it was a nasty offence. So we can't let the public know what the Ombudsman has found out about an offence that took place in one of our public institutions.

Mr. Breithaupt: Did they use bad words?

Mr. Singer: I don't know what kind of words they used because, until the Minister of Correctional Services deems it appropriate that the public can look at what happened and listen to the recommendations of the Ombudsman, lo, we are not going to know about it.

Mr. Conway: Pray, don't tell the Attorney General.

Mr. Singer: Again the hon. member for Mississauga North pointed with pride and beat his breast with pleasure about the glories of the Election Finances Reform Act, and the right we have to look into what has been going on. It is a pity he wasn't here during the debates that took place when that Act went through the House and heard the discussions about the Tory war chest, how much was there and how it was going to be used in the future. When there was a Tory majority in this House, they made quite sure that we would never see how much was in that fund or how it was going to be spent, how big it was or where it was going. We didn't even want to know where it came from; we just wanted to know how big it was and how much was going to be spent.

Maybe the winds of change are beginning to blow, and maybe what the Minister of Housing has had to say is beginning to be a concept of a government that believes that the people have some right to know. That's what it is all about. Is there a right to know or is there a divine right to keep information away from the people of Ontario, the people we are talking about governing?

Unless we get away from people like the Minister of Community and Social Services and his farcical memo about the difference between intelligence and information, unless we can get away from people like the Minister of Correctional Services who deems it offensive that we should see a report from the Ombudsman, unless we can get into the records of OHC and all these other agencies, then really we are governing, even in a minority House, with one hand tied behind our back. We are saying to the public you have no right to know, and that's wrong.

Therefore, the bill that is before us, to me, and to my colleagues makes abundant good sense. Whether it is in its present form or with some amendments doesn't really matter. I would like to see the government take the initiative put to it by the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie, the Minister of Housing, and say what is there in those minutes that isn't and shouldn't be made public to the people of Ontario? What is there in these reports and ideas and so on which shouldn't be made public to the people of Ontario, that we are governing? That is what we are here for. The people have a

right to know, and this is what this bill is all about.

If the government members believe the governed have a right to know as well as the governors, they will support this bill or bring in one of their own at the first possible opportunity.

Mr. Speaker: This order of business is now discharged.

Clerk of the House: The second order, committee of the whole House.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

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Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Monday, June 7, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

House in committee on Bill 87, An Act to amend the Education Act, 1974.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Are there any comments, questions or amendments to any section of the bill and, if so, to which section?

Mr. Foulds: Yes, Mr. Chairman, section 1, subsection 1.

On section 1:

Mr. Foulds: I don't think there would be any comments before that, unless somebody has some comments on the preamble, which would question Her Majesty's right to enact legislation.

I would like, first of all, to ask the minister the simple question why he is moving this to the regulations from the legislation. I think that in terms of a matter of principle it is always better to have things spelled out as clearly as possible in legislation. Although the formula is a complicated one that is outlined in the legislation, it does at least give a natural reference point for boards to work from. If we remove it from the legislation in its entirety, it does seem to me that we may be giving once again the executive branch of government authority which could be abused. I would like the minister's response quickly to that.

Hon. Mr. Wells: This amendment really means that by legislation we would set the method for computing average daily enrolment. We are suggesting this change because this is a technical matter which we think would be more appropriate to the grant regulations.

My friend knows and the members of this House know that each year under the authority of the Education Act grant regulations are formulated which deal with the distribution of the moneys that we voted by estimates. They outline the way in which this money will be passed on to the school boards. As part of the operation of those grant regula-

tions, there is a need to know what the average daily enrolment for a board is.

At the present time, the average daily enrolment is as outlined in this interpretation section of the Education Act. It means that at the time of framing the grant regulations if, say, in our consultation process with school boards and teachers and from the input we get from them it was to be pointed out that there were better ways, for instance, of defining or deciding on the average daily enrolment, it would not be possible to change that particular part of the grant regulations. Since it seems to us it's all part of the technical making of the regulations it would be more appropriate to have them in that form rather than as part of the legislation.

I might say that there's no intention at this point in time to change the method of calculating average daily enrolment although we do have on hand several submissions from different groups suggesting it should be calculated in a different manner. We really have no intention at this point in time of changing that method of calculation.

However, we're in the midst of an input session with various groups about next year's grant rates and it could be that this will be one of the things which will be suggested to us sometime between now and the making of the regulations in the early fall—and I subscribe to the thesis that we should have the regulations ready as soon as possible—it would be impossible to change the method of calculation of the average daily enrolment as long as it stays in the Act as it is now.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, in response I move an amendment.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Foulds moves that section 1, subsection 1, be amended by adding the words "which grant regulations shall be published no later than Nov. 10 of each year" at the end of line six.

Mr. Foulds: The section would now read:

Paragraph 2 of subsection 1 of section 1 of the Education Act, 1974, being chap-

ter 109, is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

2. "Average daily enrolment" for a calendar year means the average daily enrolment calculated in accordance with the regulations, which grant regulations shall be published no later than Nov. 10 of each year.

I think this would meet a number of objections we have had in the past about grant regulations being delayed. It would give the minister the flexibility he is seeking in the base, yet it would mean that the public and the boards would know the grant formula well in advance.

I think that's one thing which is extremely important because a lot of the dissatisfaction we've heard expressed in the province over the last number of years has had to do with the late publication of the grant, not knowing how much money they are going to have available and the basis on which that will be calculated.

Mr. Nixon: Where did Nov. 10 come from?

Mr. Foulds: That's a very good question. It came because as you look at the Act, the average daily enrolment is calculated on a couple of dates—the last school day in the months of January, April and September. It would seem to me that a six-week period after the end of September is sufficient time to get the material in and calculate the base on which the regulations will be founded.

Mr. Nixon: Why isn't it Nov. 15 then?

Mr. Foulds: I thought Nov. 10 had—it's an arbitrary date.

Mr. Nixon: It had a nice ring to it. It really sounds like something which should be in the regulations, really.

Mr. Foulds: Ideally, of course, I'm opposed to putting matters in regulations but I think there is some argument for technical matters being there as long as publication is made well in advance of implementation and the boards have that knowledge. I'm quite willing to accept Nov. 15 if that will ensure the support of the members of the Liberal caucus.

Mr. Nixon: I think it is a confidence issue.

Mr. Foulds: I'm quite willing to move it to Oct. 15 if that would ensure acceptance by the minister but it seems to me that is a fair period of time on which to base the amendment.

Mr. Ferris: I very much agree with the point the NDP member is trying to make here. In our comments on second reading we did make reference to the fact that more and more things were going into regulations. But I would be content if the minister is prepared in his comments to assure us that he isn't really intending to use this as a yearly changing function and that it is not foreseen as that now.

It could very well become that, but I don't think there is anything to be gained by saying Nov. 1. We have a very basic philosophy that we are trying to get the minister to bring out grant regulations and bring out all of the information so that boards can adequately plan. I don't think this would necessarily add anything to it because of this one enrolment figure. I would suggest for flexibility probably that although they are not in front of us regulations may be the reasonable route to take.

Mr. Foulds: Could I just comment quickly on that? The amendment actually says "which grant regulations shall be published by Nov. 10" which would include all of the grant regulations, assuming that the word "regulations" in this amendment means grant regulations.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Does the hon. minister wish to respond?

Hon. Mr. Wells: First of all, I think my friend is wrong really. This word here doesn't necessarily mean grant regulations. In my discussion of this a few minutes ago, I was talking about the grant regulations and that it would be possible to enunciate it in the grant regulations, but it wouldn't necessarily follow that that would be the way. It could be that special regulations could be devised for the calculation of average daily enrolment. I think it could be rather confusing to add the phrase, "which grant regulations shall be published by Nov. 10."

While we all subscribe to publication of the grant regulations as early as possible and all want to make this information available as quickly as possible, from where I sit sometimes situations arise which make that well nigh impossible. I think that kind of rigidity in a regulation would be very difficult to live with. I really couldn't accept that amendment, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Any discussion on that amendment?

Mr. Foulds: I make the point again on the amendment that it may be difficult to live with but it is a difficulty that any government should be prepared to live with. Otherwise, I say with all forcefulness, we as a Legislature are then allowing more and more power to be centralized in executive ministerial control. I do not think that that is a particularly healthy thing for a Legislature to do. Therefore, I would call upon all members of the House to support the amendment.

Mr. Sweeney: I have two questions. I am very sympathetic with the comment about getting the grant regulations out earlier. Having had to deal with them myself, it does become quite difficult. The first question is, can the minister give us one or two very good reasons why they do take so long? I know a number of people I have worked with in the past couldn't quite figure it out. It just seemed to be unduly long.

The second question: The minister in responding a few minutes ago said that he is thinking of making some changes possibly. Could he give us some indication of the direction in which his thinking is going—it doesn't have to be specific but just the direction—because a fundamental change could be serious?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Answering the questions in reverse order, I really can't think of any examples. It just comes to my mind that several groups have suggested there would be better ways of calculating average daily enrolments. Some don't like the idea of taking the enrolment on Sept. 30, Jan. 30 and April 30, I think it is, and averaging it. Maybe it should be taken at one time in a year rather than at three; or there should be some other method of doing it.

[8:15]

I don't have anything fixed in my mind as a better way of doing it. It's just that from time to time in meetings we hear people suggest there might be some way of improving it.

As you know, we used to calculate it very specifically on average daily attendance; it was based on attendance every day and a day missed could actually be detrimental to the amount of grants a board received. Of course, that's when we got into the whole business of having to protect boards against closing for snowstorms, transportation, and everything else, which doesn't really matter that much any more.

No, I don't really have any suggestions, nor could I indicate to you that anybody is even looking at it. It's just that in consultation with groups there may arise out of those meetings some idea of a better way of handling it that would be agreeable, particularly to the trustees. That is what we were thinking of there.

In answer to your first question, I'll tell you a very simple reason why the grant regulations are very often late in coming out. The grant regulations, as we were discussing this afternoon, involved the transfer of many millions of dollars of provincial revenue to a local body. Certainly up until this past year the designation of the amount of money to be transferred has not been made until well after the beginning of the new year.

In other words, it has become a very major part of the Treasurer's budget projections and his budget calculations, and basically we haven't been given that part of the information that we need until the Treasurer has been pretty close to delivering his budget.

What that really says to me, and I guess it says it to all of us, is that it's the differences in fiscal years really that cause the biggest problem. I mean, the province's fiscal year ends on March 31 and we basically have a new budget and new estimates for a fiscal year beginning on April 1. Yet the fiscal year of the local agency to which we are transferring the money begins on Jan. 1. So we are devising regulations to transfer money, a lot of it coming out of our budget which we don't strike and which we don't have ready until well into the new year. That is really what causes most of the problem in so far as getting grant regulations out in time is concerned.

This year, of course, we worked in an opposite way and while no one was ecstatically happy about having the information, and some of them continued to maintain that they didn't have enough information, I think in reality most boards had information about most parts of the grant regulations earlier this year than they had ever had. Although they didn't have the complete grant regulations they had information much earlier than they have ever had it. Back on Dec. 18 they had information which had never been available in the past five or six years until on in February.

The only thing they didn't have was the average assessment per pupil, which of course is necessary in order to do your calculations; we didn't have this, again, until on into the new year. If you are going to

operate on current year assessment figures it is very difficult to get that information. We were still trying to get that information this year to get the final grant regs—or to even get the notices out that we sent out. When did we send them out? They went out some time in February or early March, but by that time it was fairly late and yet we were still trying to get that information.

So really it boils down to the financial information that we have to get as part of the total Treasurer's budget, and also the assessment information which is necessary in order to work out the equalization factors built into the grant regs.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Foulds has moved that section 1, subsection 1, be amended by adding the words "which grant regulations shall be published no later than Nov. 10 of each year." This would be in line six.

All those in favour of Mr. Foulds' amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the "nays" have it.

Mr. Foulds: We will stack it.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: You agree to stack this?

Is there any further discussion on any further section of the bill?

On section 2:

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, I have a question on section 2, subsection 1. Does this addition to the ministerial power, which gives you power to purchase and distribute textbooks, in other words materials used in schools, indicate a return to the traditional conditional textbook grants that we have had in Ontario in the past, and if not, what does it provide for?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, Mr. Chairman, this section gives us the authority to operate what we call the book purchase plan, which is a plan whereby the ministry buys and circulates sample copies of all new textbooks that appear on Circular 14—basically one copy to each school, although it doesn't work exactly that way. We have been up until now sending out a form with Circular 14 indicating all the new books that were never on Circular 14 before; the principals mark on it the books they want and then they are sent out by us to the boards.

Now, this is part of the programme that was worked out arising out of the royal com-

mission on book publishing. It is basically to help the book publishers and assist them with sampling. It's one of the several techniques that we have adopted to help book publishers, and that was what it was put in for. It provides copies of books to school boards and I think we have spent something like \$1 million a year on it.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, I feel very ambivalent about that whole textbook question, but you are obviously not intending to go as far as some of the book publishers would like you to do in returning to the specific textbook grant. But would you agree that this amendment actually does give you that power, should you decide to do so?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think that not only this section, but the grant section would allow us to. I mean it allows us to make a regulation on grants, and I guess we could revert to specific designated grants for a whole variety of things if we wanted. But we really, as a general policy, don't see that as a good thing. I mean it's fine, and I can understand the textbook publishers' real concern to have us return so there will be a definitely allotted block of money there that they will be able to draw upon. However, that suggests we would then move into a whole lot of other areas and the whole education grant would be broken up into areas and designated. That is the opposite to what we have arrived at, which is the unconditional grant. The school board now sets its priorities within that amount of money, which everybody is talking about for municipalities now, trying to arrive at that kind of unconditional grants to the municipalities. We have it at the school boards and they set their priorities within it. We really aren't considering changing that at this point in time.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Is there any other discussion on any subsection in section 2? Does section 2 carry?

Mr. Ferris: Section 2, Mr. Chairman, subsection (x) on the French language immersion programmes.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Subsection (x).

Mr. Ferris: There is just a certain concern I have, Mr. Minister. I believe this will solve some of the problems and sort out some of the details of the sections on which the immersion programmes are actually being set up. Does the ministry have any plans for increasing the availability of French teachers, or that school board teachers could qualify to

teach French? I can see as more boards get into the immersion programmes, there may be a definite lack of qualified teachers to cope with this situation. Are there any plans at present to enlarge those facilities, or try to put an emphasis on them?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's one of the areas that probably needs the most attention, that the teachers that are available for these programmes are in short supply. You very often find a group starting up a programme and taking a teacher away from another area that's got a programme going, and that really doesn't help the situation at all. We've got a summer course for teachers for immersion programmes such as this. It has been going for a number of years in Compton, Que., and is being given again this year. We are constantly attempting to arrange exchange programmes with teachers from Quebec and even with teachers from France, if we can obtain them. There is an emphasis and a thrust on programmes to provide teachers for these particular programmes.

Mr. Sweeney: One question please. I raised it briefly this afternoon and the minister did not have time to respond.

Is there any intent on the part of this ministry to send out some sort of a guideline to the boards assisting them to identify those students who may have a detrimental experience by being involved in primary division immersion programmes? Does the ministry have any intention along that line at all or is it going to leave it totally up to the local boards to decide?

Hon. Mr. Wells: We haven't anything in mind in that regard but it is certainly something to which we could give consideration. I don't know whether the hon. member was here the other day when I talked about this. There is certainly no intention of suggesting that immersion programmes should be instituted for every child in Ontario; that is not the intention. This is being put in here in this Act to give a section to legitimize, if you will, the kind of programmes that are being offered for anglophone children now, the varying programmes in immersion.

There has been nothing in the Education Act that gave the authority to operate those programmes. They were being operated loosely under the French-language school section of the Act which really was not put there for that particular purpose. That is what this is in here for. Documents, such as the research studies out of the Ottawa

school board programme, are the kinds of things that will be passed on to other boards that wish to embark on these programmes. We have people in the ministry who spend a lot of time working with schools which have immersion programmes that can be of help to school boards. I think the suggestion the member has made is a worthwhile one too so that school boards will be aware that they should be careful in the selection of people who take these programmes.

Mr. Sweeney: The thrust of my comment, having been out there fairly recently, is that when the Ministry of Education makes such a statement and it becomes public knowledge, it is interpreted by some people, whether that is the ministry's intent or not, as being a form of endorsement. If you had a group of parents who desire this for their children, even though in certain specific cases it might not be the best thing for them, a board can come under a fair bit of pressure.

The board I was referring to this afternoon was, coincidentally enough, Etobicoke once again. When they were going into this they were wise enough to take the steps to identify those kinds of youngsters who would not benefit from it, for whom it would be detrimental. As I understand it, they are making quite an effort to be sure that parents understand that it would be better for certain youngsters not to go into this programme. But we may not have all boards in this province having that kind of foresight. That is more or less the thrust of my argument. I don't think it needs any more response; that is the point I'm trying to make.

Mr. Ferris: I have another question, because we didn't get to it in estimates, and it kind of relates a little bit here, and the minister might make an observation. The Languages of Instruction Commission's budget in this year's estimates is about half of what it was last year. Is there a relationship between that cut, or do you see a different thrust in languages instruction that is causing it to be cut in half?

Hon. Mr. Wells: The Languages of Instruction Commission does not enter into this particular field. They are not concerned with immersion programmes.

Mr. Ferris: Can I clarify that, Mr. Chairman? Is it a fact that a lot of their work was caused by duplication or getting into

hassles because they were trying to set up immersion schools and using the rules that these people in the Languages of Instruction Commission cover? Does the minister see any of that getting away from it and that being part of the cost-saving?

[8:30]

Hon. Mr. Wells: I don't think a lot of their work is caused because of that particular problem. Perhaps in one or two cases, such as London and so forth, there was an overlap but basically their work has been in the conflicts between the French Language Advisory Committee and the school board on basically French language schools. As with all the groups, we have urged them to keep their budget as low as possible and I guess the work they see cut out for them does not necessitate any larger budget. We're very happy if they can come in with a budget which is cut.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall section 2(x) carry? Carried.

Sections 2 to 4 inclusive agreed to.

On section 5:

Mr. Foulds: We will oppose this section but we will tie in our objections mainly to section 9. This is a cross-reference to it because it has to do, as I understand it, with the new subsection which discriminates against immigrants.

Mr. Ferris: I haven't any comment at this time as it is hooked in with the other section.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of section 5 forming part of the bill will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "nays" have it.

Shall this be stacked? It is stacked then.

Is there any further comment on any other section of the bill and, if so, on which section?

Mr. Foulds: Section 8 is the next one I have a question on. Is there anything before section 8?

Sections 6 and 7 agreed to.

On section 8:

Mr. Foulds: A question of the minister: Does this mean you've added a section which allows wards of training schools to receive free education, essentially the same as the

wards of the Children's Aid Society, I believe?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Which section is that?

Mr. Foulds: It's section 8.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's right, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Foulds: We certainly support that—that's moving in the right direction—but what facilities are we providing at the local level so that these children can profit from education in the community? What kind of extra counselling is being provided to these children who would have gone to training schools—and to some extent still are going to training schools? What kind of provisions are we making to ensure that the experience is a profitable one for the children involved and for the children in the regular school setting?

In the past we've taken these children out of our school system because they've caused disturbances of some kind and put them away in training schools. I think the move back into the community setting is a healthy and a good one but I think it does point up once again the support services we are going to need. Are you going to get that kind of funding from the Ministry of Correctional Services whose responsibility it no longer is?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I don't believe we're going to get any funding from the Ministry of Correctional Services but, of course, there are presently provisions for school boards to provide the necessary services for these types of children. It will be up to them to provide for these children who come into their school system.

There is, of course, the provision in the weighting factors concerning the grants, which will make it possible for the board, if it increases its services because it has a heavy influx of this type of child into its system, to get more provincial grant. I think they will be able to handle it. We've found that they've been able to do it for the Children's Aid Society. In actual fact we are paying the cost for these children. The boards will work out the appropriate services that are necessary and then we, in fact, will pay the total cost to the boards for the education of these children, in this particular case.

Mr. Foulds: The ministry will reimburse the boards in total for the cost of educating these children?

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's the way it works, yes.

Mr. Foulds: I'm a little confused. That contradicts your earlier statement that there was a weighting factor in the regular—

Hon. Mr. Wells: I was confused myself at that time. Actually, the boards have an option here. They can handle it in one of two ways: They can count them as regular pupils in certain instances and count them in for average daily enrolment and then they get the weighting factor and so forth, or they can count them for just the total cost of the education of those children, work it out and we pay them totally for that cost.

It's a rather complicated arrangement to decide which way best suits the boards. But, in fact, we really are encouraging the board to take these children in to provide a full and adequate programme and we are assuming the cost. We are not suggesting that these children be taken into the school system where they happen to be because they are in a group home, and that they be a charge on the local ratepayers in that particular area. We are trying to take that disincentive away from the boards and have it so that they can be taken in by that board and given the full programme and we support it financially.

Mr. Foulds: It is probably an unfair question to ask this minister, but are you aware what kind of counselling support I suppose Correctional Services must provide for the children when they are out in the community? I suppose that doesn't come directly within your purview.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I don't know what they are planning to provide. This will all tie in with the proclamation of section 8 and the kind of support that Correctional Services decides to put in.

There is no question that there are going to have to be special services here because you could carry this on in kind of a complete circle fashion. Some of the children who might find themselves in these group homes would be ones who for some reason or another were in the school system but perennial absenteeism and other problems have led them to end up in a training school. Then suddenly they find themselves back in a group home and back in a school. In some cases, they might even be back in the same school where they were before. That probably could work very well, but there will have to be special facilities or special counselling, probably by Correctional Services.

I understand Correctional Services is going to maintain a connection with these children.

Correctional Services is the guardian of these children. They will be the guardians so they will be providing some special services.

Section 8 agreed to.

On section 9:

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, I would ask if we could take section 9 paragraph by paragraph—I guess that is the way we would describe it, although it's really describing other subsections in the main Act—because we would like to oppose paragraph 6 as it is outlined in the bill. We can do it in one of two ways technically, Mr. Chairman. We can make a motion to delete that paragraph, or if you take it paragraph by paragraph we can simply vote against that. I would like, if I might, to give the reasons.

I think I outlined them briefly in the lead-off and I don't want to take an unduly long period of time here, but I think it is important that we recognize this section for what it is. This particular section is a mandatory section that requires the school board to charge fees to a student who may be in this country on a student visa and resident with an uncle or aunt or relative who has no other children going through the school system and who is paying property tax.

I find this section offensive because subparagraph 5 above gives the board the discretionary power, as it has at the present time if I understand correctly, to levy a fee in such cases. This section ties in with what seems to me to be an extremely unhealthy attitude which the present government is fostering. It expresses itself through the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Taylor) when he extends from five to 10 years the requirement for immigrants to become eligible for GAINS. It expresses itself in the statement of the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Parrott) when he increases the fees for foreign students. It expresses itself, I think, in an unhealthy way.

I think there is no doubt—I have heard of cases—that people jet in, enrol their kids in a private school and then put them in the public school system although they can well afford to pay. Those are the people, if you like, in the jet set. It seems to me that paragraph 5 gives the board the discretion to charge those fees and that should be all that is necessary to plug that particular loophole.

What subsection 6 does is make it absolutely mandatory for boards to charge these fees. Surely, in a society as rich and plentiful as Ontario is—even in this day of restraint—we can afford, for the betterment of our own

community as well as the betterment of the world community, to educate some children who have relatives here, at the expense of this province. The relatives here, as I said when I started, who may not have children going through the school system are still paying property tax and Ontario taxes which support the school system.

I can't tell you how strongly I feel about this. There is an argument to be made in terms of free education. There is an argument to be made in terms of generosity. There's an argument to be made in terms of Ontario taking its responsibility as a member of the world community.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Perhaps before the hon. member for London South (Mr. Ferris) speaks to the suggestions by the hon. member for Port Arthur, the Chair might clarify a point. When the hon. member suggests paragraph by paragraph, you are referring to subsection by subsection?

Mr. Foulds: It is difficult, Mr. Chairman, because if you read the Bill, "subsections 1, 2 and 5 of section 46 of the said Act are repealed and the following substituted therefor." The numbering is actually the numbering in section 46 of the main Act. What I am referring to is at the bottom of page 4 of the bill, the paragraph at the bottom which is numbered 6. That is a new section which will be added as subsection 6 of section 46 of the main Act but it is that item I am speaking on. I would like you to take 1, 2, 5 and 6 separately. There's no 3 and 4 because they remain as part of the original Act.

[8:45]

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Is this agreed with the committee?

Mr. Ferris: It is only 6 we are addressing. We can just go past those and address ourselves to 6, if you want.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Is it agreed with the committee that subsections 1, 2 and 5 carry? Carried.

Subsection 6, the member for Port Arthur.

Mr. Foulds: I've just spoken to that particular subsection, Mr. Chairman, and when the vote comes for it, we will simply vote against it. We are opposed to it. I could make a motion to delete, but I think that would be redundant.

Mr. Ferris: We've got a problem here, of course, which the NDP member has alluded

to. If you truly believe in local autonomy, as most of us choose to do, one would say that the amendment should be deleted and the option should be left entirely with the boards. However, we are looking at a situation—and unfortunately, it's a very difficult situation to word.

I think when the minister was talking about it in second reading he said that it was a duty to protect the local taxpayers. I choose to believe that the board, in exercising local autonomy, has that prerogative as to whether it can charge the people. The taxpayers we are talking about here are really the ones that the ministry's portion is paying for—and that's really what the essence of it is.

However, I do think that it would be difficult to oppose this simply because it relates only to those people on student visas. My understanding is that we're talking about approximately 1,000 people who are coming here specifically for an education. And because we don't have reciprocal systems with most of the places they would be coming from, then I think it would only be fair to the citizens of Ontario that their money be spent in this manner and that these students should be charged a fee.

Mr. Good: On this section, I'd like to say a few words regarding a local situation. I'm wondering what, if anything, there might be in this section that might resolve the problem of a student who is willing to pay the complete fee so that the taxpayers would not suffer, but the school board refuses to grant the student admission to grade 13 because she is not here as a landed immigrant.

I think the minister is aware of the back and forth play that goes on between the school board and immigration officials. Immigration people say, "If you show us an acceptance by a school that will take you, we will give you a student visa." School board officials say, "You show me a student visa and we have to accept you as a student."

I have never dealt with a problem that has been kicked back and forth as long as this particular problem. This particular student completed grade 12 in a private school and paid the full fee. Unfortunately, private schools in our area do not give grade 13, so she tried to get admission through both the public and the separate school boards.

I feel, personally, if there is room in the school and the student is willing to pay the whole fee, there should be no reason why the school board should not accept the student. The school board, of course, has its regulations and has simply said it will not

admit students unless they are here on a student visa. Of course, immigration officials say, "We have to see your acceptance in a school before we can give you a student visa."

I think it's a terrible situation, Mr. Chairman, and one that I think should be corrected in some manner. I think the whole problem is simply that they're afraid it would open a floodgate for admission of any number of foreign students, whose families are quite capable of paying the full fee.

Mr. Chairman, I contend if the school board has 12 places in a particular grade, they should accept 12 students who are capable and willing to pay that fee. They should not have to provide additional services for everyone who wants to come in to Canada and pay the fee, but surely these are the conditions that one would think would be suitable to all school boards. But for some reason certain school boards in the province use the immigration argument, the immigration people use the requirement for acceptance in the school, and the student has no redress whatsoever and just can't find a place in grade 13.

Could the minister suggest anything that would help eliminate this particular problem?

Mr. Bounsall: I would like to address myself to this point directly to the minister. I come from a border town, as you know, and we have certain problems that arise there which this section would pick up in a peculiar way.

Over the course of the years, grandparents in Windsor may have had their family in Windsor but that family gets dispersed to Detroit. You have half of the married children living in Detroit and the other half living in Windsor. Should there be a marriage breakup in that family living in Detroit they go through a period—some of which periods are rather elongated—where the most appropriate place for the children of that now broken-up marriage, until the parents sort themselves around to some other position, is back with either their grandparents in Windsor or one of their aunts and uncles in Windsor.

If that is going to take place over an elongated period of time they need a student visa, as any person born in the United States needs. They are living with their grandparents who are paying school taxes in Windsor, or they are living with their aunt or their uncle who are paying

school taxes in Windsor, and they are completely caught by this subsection 6.

On that basis alone, I think it is quite discriminatory. The board in its wisdom may decide, if it was given discretion as the member for Port Arthur says, whether or not to charge the fee. But here the board must charge that fee, and this is going to be discriminatory against quite a handful of families in the Windsor area where the most appropriate place for that child—and it is usually on a temporary basis; maybe a few months, but most times not more than two years—would be back with his or her aunts or uncles or grandparents in Windsor. In order to do that, as far as I know, to take up residence there, they would be required to have a visa.

The easiest visa to obtain under those sorts of circumstances, which start out to be temporary and may become somewhat more than temporary, is, in fact, a student visa. They don't usually go for the landed immigrant visa. These are children who are born in the United States and therefore need a visa of some kind to be resident with their relatives back in Windsor.

I would hope this clause could become subject to approval by the board and I would hope that the Windsor board would never charge for it because there are just as many situations now going in the reverse in Windsor—in fact, even more so because of the imbalance in population between Detroit and Windsor. Certainly Windsor, on balance, would tend to be ahead of the game in the situation in terms of having fewer students in the Windsor system I am talking about, as opposed to the numbers that would be in the Detroit system.

I hate very much to see this situation arise where you have to go through some fancy finagling to get around it, where one has to establish the grandparent as the legal guardian or the aunt or uncle as the legal guardian, and go through all the paper work in an agreement by both parents of a separated situation for that sort of permanent guardianship to be granted.

I would hope the Windsor board would never charge the fee but now it must charge it. I would hope that discretion would be left to that board, and that in the case of Windsor that board would never charge that fee, under those circumstances.

I fully realize the type of person the minister has in mind under this section—the one who is fully trained in a foreign country, usually Hong Kong, and who wants to get

into a Canadian university and finds the best route to do this is to spend one year in grade 13 in Ontario and establish his or her grade 13 marks, in order that one gets entrance to university on the same basis as if he or she were a Canadian student as it affects grants and so on. I know that that is the one category which I think the minister is aiming at in this, but by so doing he creates problems in other categories which would be taken to be normal family situations if you come from a border situation where both cities on both sides of the border are relatively large.

Mr. Sweeney: I have just a very brief question of the minister. You have said on several occasions, both in the introduction of this bill and in the Education estimates, that you place great stock in the autonomy of the local boards. Yet when you spoke to this earlier, unless I interpreted you incorrectly, you said you were not prepared to leave it to the discretion of the local boards to make this decision. I will go one step further. It has been my experience that there are certain situations, and the previous speaker alluded to them, where the local board is in a much better position to know the peculiarities of the particular problem and may really wish to decide in a different way. I guess really what I am trying to get at is the inconsistency or the apparent contradiction between your strong support for local autonomy in decision-making in most other issues and in this very specific one where you seemingly feel you just aren't prepared to leave it up to the local board to make this decision. On the surface, it appears like a contradiction anyway. My understanding is that the local board does have the power right now to charge it if it so wishes.

Mr. Warner: I am quite puzzled by the inclusion of this particular subsection. I am wondering if the minister can reflect back to the time when he was a trustee on the board of education for Scarborough. In fact, I believe he was chairman of the board at one time. I am wondering if he can recall any moments where compassion did not prevail in the case of a person from another country who was seeking to obtain some education in Scarborough—if there were moments where the board did not use its discretionary powers in a fair and just way in determining whether or not the fee should be charged; if there were times where the board did not levy the fee when it felt it should; if the board did ever abuse its powers or privileges as have existed under the Education Act for some time.

I think I know the answer to all of those, and I now ask who on earth drafted this thing we have in front of us? I can't for a moment dream that it's the Minister of Education. It's a poor section. I would appreciate some explanation for it, as to where it came from and whether or not the minister can draw from his past experience to say that this section absolutely must be, that the boards of education for the various municipalities cannot make the determination fairly and justly, each case on its own merit.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I spoke at length about this on the second reading of this bill. For instance, taking the situation that was referred to concerning the Waterloo area, it's my understanding from some of the officials of our ministry that really the Waterloo board doesn't want to take in any of these students. It is a bit of a subterfuge perhaps to suggest that they get a visa. They really do not want them. They may not want them because they know that they are not going to pay anything. I don't know whether the Waterloo board collects or not.

It could be argued that this section will really reinforce what my friend is asking for, that the board, if they have space, will be pleased to take these students because they will know they have to charge. There is no way that the students are going then to be able to come and say, 'Now that we are here, we don't want to pay any fee,' which maybe is what's holding the Waterloo board. I don't know.

[9:00]

Mr. Good: They won't take them under any conditions. The students have offered to pay, but they won't take them. That's the problem.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's another problem. Of course, it is the right of a local board to say it hasn't any room and, therefore, it can't take any more pupils. That could apply to pupils coming from another bordering county. There are lots of times when people would like to have their children educated in another jurisdiction but the board won't accept them because it says there isn't space.

Mr. Good: But they have the space.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I understand what some of the hon. members have said. There may be some grey area cases here and I would give you my assurance that if we find some grey area cases in these border areas which would necessitate some changes to this legislation, those can be made to accommo-

date them if we can find some way to write in those changes.

What we're really saying is that the schools of Ontario, given the fact they have the room, are very happy to accept students from anywhere. All they're saying is that they will have to pay a fee and the fee will be very well known. There will be no ifs, ands or buts about it. There will be a fee to attend school just as there is a fee to attend Upper Canada College or St. Andrews or any other place to which a student from anywhere in the world may wish to come.

In a matter of compassion, I could ask myself if I were a person in Scarborough and someone came and asked me for compassion to let someone in and not pay a fee, there may be people in Scarborough who would like to have completely free education for their child and ask to be relieved of all their education tax because of their circumstances.

Mr. Warner: You would make those decisions though.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We certainly would not—would you suggest we give the boards that kind of discretion to waive fees for students living in Ontario to attend schools? We don't have any discretion there. Everyone pays, although not directly as a charge, to attend the school. They pay through their municipal and provincial taxes and federal taxes in some regard.

What we're really saying is that if a student wishes to come to the schools in this province there is a fee and it's very clearly designated. There are no ifs, ands or buts. The federal government issues student visas and if a person comes on a student visa, that's the fee for attending the school.

It's a very simple amendment and, really, that's all it does, as I'm suggesting, although I am giving the assurance that if certain problems arise in the border areas, such as Windsor—and I haven't really had any of these brought to my attention until the debate tonight—we could look at some adjustment to take care of those if they did happen to present a problem.

Mr. Warner: What about Sault Ste. Marie?

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, the way the minister has just articulated his statement indicates to me a very unhealthy principle which is being introduced into our attitude toward paying for education in Ontario. What the minister is edging toward is a statement that those who use the system should pay for it.

In Ontario, we have assumed that education should be universal, it should be free and the community as a whole should pay for it. With his reference to taxpayers and tying that to a use of the system, I think he is coming dangerously close to articulating what his friend, the hon Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), likes to talk about—the reprivatization of the system. I'm worried about that. I know that this section doesn't have all those implications but it's the beginning of it and it worries me profoundly.

It worries me profoundly because using the minister's arguments and taking them another logical step, it means that we will have to start relieving those people who do not have children in the school system of their education tax. I know that's a step the minister is not prepared to take at this time, the Legislature is not prepared to take and the government's not prepared to take. But it's the other side of the coin of the argument that the minister has just put to us.

I plead with the House not to pass the section. The discretionary power available presently in the Act and, as it is re-enacted in paragraph 5 in this section before us, is sufficient to cover the loopholes and cover the abuse that the ministry wishes to cover.

Mr. Bounsall: Could I say to the minister that he seemed in his reply rather partial to the idea of perhaps making some adjustments for those persons in border towns, if such problems arose. It's often not just a grandmother or an aunt or uncle. In some instances, it's the parent who moves back to Canada but all the children of that parent were born in Detroit and that child is an immigrant back in Canada. If there's a custody fight going on, there's no landed immigrant status obtained for that child. If that child, for example, joins the mother who has now returned to her family bosom and birthplace back in Windsor, the type of visa that student who is back staying with the mother would be on, until custody is determined at least, would be a student visa.

Is the minister saying he would be willing to add to this clause at the end some words that say except where that student is living with a close relative such as a parent, grandparents, aunts or uncles? That would, by and large, clear up that particular family cross-border situation between two large cities which occurs in our area. Is the minister saying he would put that in the bill in order to accommodate that very real situation that occurs in our border area?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, what I'm saying is that I think we'll take a look at that as this comes into effect. If there was a marriage breakdown and the mother came into Windsor on an employment visa and the child came with the mother, there would be no problem. The child would be there with the mother and not on a student visa. The mother would be a resident of Windsor and the child would be eligible to go to school. It could depend on the closeness of the relative. I'm also informed that a child born in the United States of Canadian parents has dual citizenship.

Mr. Bounsall: Only if registered upon birth within so many days do they have that dual citizenship. My oldest daughter has dual citizenship, having been born in the States of Canadian parents.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Anyway, that's another variable in the situation. I'd also be interested in knowing what the United States of America does insofar as the reverse situation is concerned.

Mr. Bounsall: I'm kind of surprised that the minister and the officials don't know at this point what rules pertain in the three or four states of the United States which touch Ontario with respect to this matter. There isn't all that many of them. What's the matter with the research there? Can they not tell us directly what happens in New York?

Hon. Mr. Wells: They charge.

Mr. Bounsall: They all charge? New York, Ohio, Michigan and Minnesota all charge, do they?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Most of them charge.

Mr. Bounsall: Most of them charge. Does Michigan charge?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, they don't.

Mr. Bounsall: They don't. We've got exactly the problem in Windsor that I've been talking about right here, where Michigan doesn't but we do, and I would like that cleared up, if you can determine that here. How close do you want the tie? A cousin could be rather distant, even though they might be rather friendly in having met them and communicated with them over the years, but surely an aunt or an uncle or a grandparent is a different story. That to me would be close. It would be a close relative and one might even confine it to that.

You can imagine the frustration of people who are of grandparent age, perhaps themselves retired—in most cases retired—who haven't had children in the Ontario school system for years but are still being required to pay education taxes. Now if one of their grandchildren comes to live with them under the situation I have described that grandchild must pay an additional fee. You can imagine the frustration felt by those grandparents on the sort of system we have in Ontario which causes them to pay school taxes when they haven't had children in the school for years yet when a grandchild comes to live with them because of a marital breakdown an additional fee must be charged.

You can understand the feeling of frustration about what the government is up to and what the government is doing that this could be set up. How can we correct it in this bill so that doesn't occur?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me say this to you. I think you make enough of a point that I will take this back and before we pass this section we will find out about the Windsor situation because certainly that is something we don't want to happen. I would like to look at that and I would like to know what Michigan does.

If we want to set this section over until I have a chance to get that information I would be prepared to look at some adjustment in this section as it pertains to these border situations. I am not willing to change it as it pertains to foreign students generally coming into this province on student visas.

Mr. Warner: Now that we are beginning on the research which should have been done before the bill was introduced, will you also check out Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. and Soo, Mich.; Niagara Falls and Niagara Falls; and Cornwall and Massena so that we have checked every border town? Could we also have some information on Ottawa/Hull and any other border towns which exist?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, Ottawa-Hull is a little different. We don't check there. We don't treat Quebec as a foreign country.

Mr. Warner: I see, that's refreshing. We don't want to get into that.

Hon. J. R. Smith: It is not a border town.

Mr. Warner: You have really opened up a can of fish, perhaps, since the minister will admit that research is lacking and we are finding the same kind of situation—

Mr. Renwick: Don't use that simile.

Mr. Warner: Yes, there are certainly poisoned fish in this province. We are finding out that there is the same lack of research as when the Minister of Colleges and Universities decided to land with both feet on immigrants. I take it we are probably also talking about 1,000 students; is that an approximate number to use?

Mr. Shore: Within 1,000.

Mr. Warner: It really is quite incredible. If you are willing to set this particular section aside until you actually get the data required, fine, but while you are setting it aside perhaps you would actually consider the possibility of withdrawing it. It really is not particularly good for our multicultural society whatsoever.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, I am not going to withdraw it and I am not giving any consideration to withdrawing it because it has nothing to do with our multicultural society nor with education for our immigrant population, our new Canadians or anything of that nature.

Your friend, the House leader for your party, took me to task for even alluding that he might have been thinking of something like that when he was criticizing me earlier about the bill. He said, "I am not criticizing you on that particular ground." This section has nothing to do with that and I think we should put that out of our minds.

This section is purely and simply talking about charging fees to people who are coming here purely and solely to go to school in this province and return to their own country. As I indicated earlier, if this country of Canada wants to assist those students we should do it through a student assistance programme—a national student assistance programme—which is there for everybody to see and which can report to the people on what is being done and how many are being assisted and so forth. It should not be done by the school system. The school board should charge and the assistance should come through the federal government through a student assistance programme—I would welcome it and that's the way it should work.

What we are talking about now is a situation at those border points which may present hardships and problems to relatives of students who want to come back and live with those relatives for various reasons not particularly connected directly with just the fact that they want to go to school. That's

what I am going to take a look at in the next few days.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Does the committee agree to set section 9(6) aside to be dealt with later?

Agreed.

[9:15]

On section 10:

Hon. Mr. Wells: With the unanimous consent of the House, I'd like to enter an amendment to section 10 concerning changed representation on the Peel Board of Education.

Mr. Foulds: Would that become subsection 2 of section 10 of the bill?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Well, I'll read the section—

Mr. Foulds: Because I have a question on section 10 as it stands. Perhaps you could put the amendment first.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Hon. Mr. Wells moves that the bill be amended by adding thereto the following section 10:

Clause (b) of subsection 6 of section 57 of the said Act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

(b) of the county or district, municipalities shall be the number of members determined under subsection 4 less the total number of members determined under clause (a) for the city or cities, if any, but in no case shall the number of members to be elected under this clause be fewer than (1) or (2) where the school division comprises a regional municipality in which there are fewer than four municipalities

and that the remaining sections of the bill be renumbered accordingly.

Mr. Foulds: Can I just ask, as a question of the chairman I guess, this is an entirely new section 10 and the section 10 that is in the bill as it is printed is to become section 11?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, it becomes section 11.

Mr. Foulds: All right. I hope you are aware of what's just happened, Mr. Chairman. All the numbers in the bill are now getting bumped on one.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The Chair is slightly confused at this moment.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, the amendment that I have just moved really creates a new section 10. That is why I said that with unanimous consent the House agreed to put in a new section 10 and, as per the last line of my amendment, the remaining sections of the bill be renumbered accordingly. Section 10 becomes section 11 and they all go down one, right down the whole list, for the rest of the bill.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Does the hon. member for London South wish to comment on the minister's amendment?

Mr. Ferris: No, not on the amendment, Mr. Chairman. There was one question on section 22, if we're at that level.

Mr. Foulds: I've got something before that.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall the minister's amendment carry?

Motion agreed to.

Section 10, as amended, agreed to.

On section 11:

Mr. Foulds: On section 11, old section 10, at the top of the page. Just why this amendment?

Hon. Mr. Wells: This section is being taken out. In other words, the very stringent provision that's in there now is being taken out to permit more flexibility in the provision of schools where, for example, (a) a new mine or a new mill opens, people move to an area which is not in a school district, a new municipality is formed and it is our wish to make the school and municipal boundaries coterminous. An example is the improvement district of Pickle Lake. The present requirement can lead to delays of up to 18 months and provide for new areas to commence in January when often what is wanted is a school to commence in September.

Mr. Foulds: Do I understand correctly that this does not affect any of the county or regional boards; it only affects those small boards in northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes.

Mr. Foulds: So that what this might enable to come about is that a school could be operative in September in some cases rather than in the January 18 months later.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, that's right. It's not meant to indicate that somebody is going to go around adjusting things without giving

people notice, or anything like that. It's to allow the flexibility of dates in setting it up.

Mr. Foulds: I don't have an amendment to anything, I would just like to leave with the minister the thought that it would be helpful if there could be a six-month notice period. Particularly if you are incorporating part of an unorganized territory into a school district, I think that it is possible, under this section, that a portion of an unorganized territory could come under a new district board; those taxpayers should have six months' notice for that. That seems to me to be fair, if that is possible.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I have an amendment to this section, in order to tidy it up properly.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Hon. Mr. Wells moves that section 11—the former section 10 of the bill—be amended by adding thereto the following subsection 2; subsection 4 of the said section 60 is repealed; and that the present section 11 of the bill be renumbered as subsection 1 of section 11.

Hon. Mr. Wells: All the 10s in that should be changed to 11s.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Any further discussion on the minister's amendment?

Hon. Mr. Wells: That amendment is to catch another part of that section 60 that refers to the same thing, and it should have been in the amendment in the first place. Besides changing subsection 1, subsection 4 isn't necessary any more.

Mr. Foulds: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, I believe by repealing subsection 4 of section 60 in the original bill, or in the bill as it now stands—let me just read subsection 4 of section 60:

Notwithstanding subsection 2, the formation or alteration of the district school area thereunder shall for all purposes relating to the election of a board be deemed to be effective on the 1st day of July in the year of such formation or alteration.

What provision have you then made for the election of the school boards thus created or altered?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Section 63.

Mr. Foulds: Right, except in section 63 the reference is to elections in December and the board beginning in January. Presumably the amendment you are making here allows for an unorganized territory to become part of the school district for the beginning of Sep-

tember, should a school be required in that area. What I'm trying to really pin down is when the new area that is incorporated into a school board gets representation on that board, or whether that's left then until the December date and they have no representation, say, for half a year.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Does subsection 4 of section 63 not take care of it?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Is there any further discussion on the minister's amendment to section 11? Shall the amendment carry? Carried.

Section 11, as amended, agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Any further discussion on any of the new sections from 12 on?

Mr. Foulds: I have something on section 19 which becomes new section 20.

Sections 12 to 19, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 20:

Mr. Foulds: If you will just bear with me for a moment until I rearrange my notes here; once again, it seems to me we're moving a section into regulations from the Act directly. Am I correct there? You're adding a new section 103 and it's in regulations. It seems to me that this should be public as soon as possible and it should be spelled out as clearly as possible in legislation. Or is this the parallel amendment to the one that we've just discussed for separate school boards?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I don't follow where you mean we're putting it into regulations. Where does this section indicate we're putting something into regulations?

Mr. Foulds: In section 20, subsection 103(a) on page 7 of the bill, subsection 2 of your new 103(a), it says:

The Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by regulation, exempt the district combined separate school board from the provisions of subsections 2 to 18 of section 110 and provide for the number of trustees to be elected to the board and the city [and so on].

In other words, by regulation you can have the Lieutenant Governor in Council, that is you, determine the number of trustees to be elected to this particular kind of board, a district, combined, separate school board.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You have to go back through the Act to understand this too. I'm just looking at it.

Mr. Foulds: What you're doing is you're suspending in effect section 110, subsections 2 to 18, which are the sections which outline the steps that need to be taken to elect a district combined separate school board.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Excuse me.

Mr. Foulds: Sure. We should probably have an arrangement, as we do for estimates, that when it comes to legislation details officials are allowed on the floor.

[9:30]

Hon. Mr. Wells: There are so many sections here and it gets so complicated.

Mr. Foulds: Right.

Hon. Mr. Wells: This provision is all being done for the North of Superior Roman Catholic Separate School Board and some problems they had up there.

Mr. Foulds: Is that the reason? That new expanded school board?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes.

Mr. Foulds: Why didn't you say that in the first place? Do these provisions apply only in that case at the present time?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes.

Mr. Foulds: Okay, I will accept that.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is my fault. That should have been in the explanation really because you could have spent hours wondering what we were meaning with that Peel amendment. Once you say it's to put an extra member on the Peel county board, it all fits into place. This is to accommodate the North of Superior Roman Catholic Separate School Board which the combined districts are trying to put together up there.

Mr. Foulds: Now I understand what you are talking about. Okay.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The new section 20 will carry then?

Section 20 agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Any further discussion on any of the new sections?

Section 21 agreed to.

On section 22.

Mr. Foulds: I simply want to say that we support the new section 22 wholeheartedly. I think it's a very positive move in the right direction. I think I said enough in my lead-

off to the estimates that what we need now is to—I think we should take that a step further, if it's at all possible, because what you are doing here is really demanding the reasons from local boards for children of compulsory school age not being in school. I think I would like to see us as a government and as a Legislature take the further step of actually guaranteeing all children of compulsory school age an education in Ontario which we do not do at the present time. We should, if you like—perhaps in this section—develop a bill of rights for all those children with various handicaps who are presently excluded from the school system whether they have a learning disability or are mentally retarded or physically handicapped, all of which children occasionally, even in this day and age, in 1976 in Ontario, do get excluded from our school system. This is one small step forward which we certainly support.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall the new section 22 carry?

Section 22 agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Any other discussion on any other section of the bill?

Mr. Foulds: New section 24.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Anything before the new section 24?

On section 23:

Mr. Ferris: Just a clarification on what would now be 23: In the ministry's view, does this not stop any board from entering into a computer arrangement with another board? I think we have talked about this. There has been a problem in certain areas. A computer facility can be rented from one system to another without any problems or services can be sold from one board to another?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, this provides for that but it doesn't provide for a board—in effect, it plugs what might have been an open loophole whereby boards could set up computer capabilities and sell them commercially. They are really not supposed to do that.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Does new section 23 carry?

Section 23 agreed to.

On section 24:

Mr. Foulds: If I understand this section, you are including the words “and equip-

ment” so that you are encouraging the use of the sharing of equipment between boards as well as facilities. If that's the case, it's once again a very positive step in the right direction. I think one of the things we have to do is redistribute some of the equipment, some of the wealth, we have in the school system so that it can be made full use of by neighbouring boards and, if you like, by separate and public boards and, in some cases, high school and elementary boards which may not be exactly coterminous.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think your sentiments are very good and it's certainly something I've supported. This really goes hand in hand with the previous amendment which allows a board to purchase a computer and enter into an agreement to provide computer services. By adding the word “equipment” here, we also then make it very clear that the board which is on the receiving end can enter into agreements, for instance, for a computer which is part of equipment, and they can use that.

Mr. Foulds: It says “accommodation and equipment”, so there is other equipment.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We're not saying just computer, but that's one of the reasons why we're making the change here, to include computers for administrative purposes, but it could be any other type of equipment that a board wished to share.

Section 24 agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Any other comments, questions or amendments to any other section of the bill? The hon. member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

Mr. Warner: New section 26, unless there's something prior to that.

Section 25 agreed to.

On section 26:

Mr. Warner: I would like an explanation for clause (c) which reads:

A child over two years of age who may, under the regulations, be admitted to a programme for hearing-handicapped children.

I'm wondering why it doesn't read “three years of age or less.” There's a great distinction, certainly, for those who are working in programmes designed to help hearing-handicapped children. They are in fact trying to work with children who are less than two years of age. Could the minister explain the reason for the wording as it's now on the page in front of me?

Hon. Mr. Wells: This is to permit a board to provide transportation for these hearing-handicapped children who will be admitted under the new proposed regulation that we have to programme for such children. The proposed regulation would read:

Subject to section 31, a hearing-handicapped child who has attained the age of two years may be admitted to a special education programme for hearing-handicapped children.

These are the new regulations on special education that are coming in which provide for two years of age. This goes hand in hand with that and gives the board the right to provide transportation for those children.

Mr. Warner: My point was, though, why is it not worded such that it would allow for children who are three years of age or less rather than putting it the way you've put it that they must be two years of age? Perhaps the minister's aware of the programme for hearing-handicapped children in Metropolitan Toronto where they are working with children of three years of age or less. Through the Toronto Sick Children's Hospital they are trying to begin working with children who are six months of age. It would be of assistance to them, I'm sure, if you drafted legislation that read "three years of age or less" rather than starting at two and working your way up.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think my friend knows that the present regulation 191 even says that there may be classes for deaf children who have reached two years of age. There isn't provision for school boards to have classes for children under two years of age at the present time, so this section of the Act is corresponding with what is presently in regulation 191.

Mr. Warner: I am suggesting you should change it, that it should read "three years of age or less."

Hon. Mr. Wells: That may be valid for a future time but at the present time the regulation reads "two years." I think we have to keep the Act in concert with the regulations.

Mr. Warner: And not be progressive?

Mr. Ferris: It's the other way around.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall new section 26 carry?

Section 26 agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Any other comments, questions or amendments on any other of the new sections of the bill?

Mr. Foulds: New section 31.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Anything prior to new section 31?

Sections 27 to 30, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 31:

Mr. Foulds: As I understand it, the reference in new section 31 to section 207 of the Act, and the subsequent new section 32 which refers to section 208 of the Act, enables us to discuss the whole matter of school board financing. Section 207 of the Act is the section which provides for the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make the regulations which are, in fact, the school grant regulations. Section 208 of the Act is the section which makes it mandatory for municipalities to levy and collect the taxes for the boards.

Some of the frustrations we expressed this afternoon in not being able to deal with this whole question need not have arisen had we realized this at that time, because this, it seems to me, allows us to talk about the Morrisburgs of this world. Am I correct, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I think we should speak just to the changes that are made in the bill and not to anything pertaining to the ministerial estimates.

Mr. Foulds: No, Mr. Chairman, I am asking you to look seriously at the original Act, and if you don't happen to have a copy in front of you, my colleague from Welland (Mr. Swart) will temporarily lend you his copy. Section 207 says: "The Lieutenant Governor in Council will make regulations providing for the apportionment of the funds." What we are doing here is adding a new subsection to the list. Maybe I could start by asking the minister why we are adding this section, then?

Hon. Mr. Wells: First let me say, Mr. Chairman, that we make the grant rates under the authority of section 10, subsection 3, not section 207 as the member indicated. Actually, sections 207 and 208 have to do with the apportioning of the levies and once the school board has arrived at the municipal portion of its taxes—

Mr. Foulds: That's exactly what I want to talk about.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I knew we would give you an opening somewhere. But the grant rate is made under section 10, subsection 3.

Mr. Foulds: But we can't talk about the local levy?

Hon. Mr. Wells: This section here, in very simple terms—and I must say I find it very difficult to explain it to you in simple language because my friend the member for Carleton (Mr. Handleman) said he would be here in order that he could support this and explain it to you—but it is another one of those amendments that is being put in for that Carleton area, basically the Ottawa area. It is being put in, as I understand it, to prevent the municipality of Vanier from going to the divisional court to quash apportionments, which is what they have been doing.

Mr. Foulds: While we are on this whole subject of taxation and local levies, what is the minister's comment about Morrisburg? It seems to me that under either 207 or 208 Morrisburg doesn't have a leg to stand on when it says the school board has to sue it for the local levy that it should be getting. If you are going to make a specific provision with regard to Vanier, does that not open up the whole question of local levies to debate? Mr. Chairman?

[9:45]

Hon. Mr. Wells: Are you asking me?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I think I indicated earlier that I would hear what the member had to say. I can't prejudge what your comments are going to be.

Mr. Foulds: My comments are going to be about local levies.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Perhaps I might draw to the hon. member's attention that in the work of the committee and the work of the Legislature there are some constraints in the essence of completing the business of the House. I would ask the members of the committee to adhere to these endeavours to keep the debate as limited as possible.

Mr. Foulds: Local levies, I think, are an important and crucial issue and if we can't take estimates time to debate it, I could take legislative time to debate it. I would appreciate it because we are amending section 207 which is the apportionment section. We are amending section 208 of the Act which perhaps is where I could make my comments more fundamentally because the key to 208 is "The council of each municipality and school division in each year shall levy and collect upon all property ratable for public school purposes," etc. In other words, they shall collect these taxes. I want to talk about the burden placed on those municipalities and on the local school boards.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The Chair fails to agree that we should debate the minister's estimates at this time. However, if the hon. member wants to ask a brief question as to how the section might affect a local area I'm sure the committee would concur. However, the Chair does not feel that we should be debating the ministerial estimates at this time.

Mr. Foulds: How about if I let section 31 go and have a go at section 32?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall section 31 carry?

Section 31 agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: New section 32, any comments, criticisms or amendments?

On section 32:

Mr. Foulds: I have a brief question, Mr. Chairman.

Why is this subsection necessary?

Hon. Mr. Wells: This section makes the provisions referred to apply to the James Bay Lowland Secondary School Board and to any secondary school board which may be established in the future.

Mr. Foulds: Is it the only secondary school board? It will be the only—it has a unique definition?

Hon. Mr. Wells: That's right.

Mr. Foulds: May I ask, as a matter of curiosity, why that wasn't included in the interpretation section of the Act? Was it easier to put it in this section? It would have seemed to me to make more sense to put it in the interpretation section of the Act.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I'll get the lawyer's opinion on this but really this is a substantive amendment. It's a substantive thing and it really should be in the Act somewhere, not in an interpretation section. It's really saying that for this particular board, if it's a secondary school board sitting all alone on its own—and this is the only one at the present time—all those things in the Act that pertain to secondary school boards which are part of divisional boards—that is, the secondary school panel—apply. It is to be substantive, and if you just put it in the interpretation section it wouldn't be enough.

Mr. Foulds: Does it not require a correlative mention in the interpretation section?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think there already is a section in there that applies to secondary schools, is there not?

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Minister while you are dealing with that, I would like to go back to a reference you made earlier. I thought I heard you say—I can't remember when, but recently—that there already was a public school board here. And if we are adding a secondary school panel to it, why do we need two distinct boards? Why can't we just have a board of education? I'm not quite sure I understand the distinction.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Really, it is a transitional situation. It may be that at some given time in the future they will combine together, but it appeared in consultation with the local people that it was better to set up a separated secondary school board which serves the pupils from both the public school and the separate school board in the area. I think the attempt is to let it get going and then, perhaps, after it gets going and established, it can then look towards possibly developing in the board of education format.

As far as I know, this was the wish of the local people in the area, as determined by that study that was done. People were consulted up there.

The other thing is that this secondary school board covers a larger area than public school boards cover. It covers both the island and the mainland.

There are actually two public and one separate school boards up there now. There's one public school board for the island and one on the mainland, and a separate school board on the mainland. And this secondary school board covers the whole island mainland.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Minister, looking at the interpretation on page 14 of the bill, it says: "And to any secondary school board that may be established in the future."

I gather what you are saying is that if this type of situation occurs again, that we are covered now. Is that the correct way to interpret that? I can't imagine where else it would be.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Neither can I at the moment, but when you read the section you find that the section doesn't specifically mention the James Bay Lowlands Secondary School Board, therefore we are trying to be very factual in the explanatory notes. It could apply to another secondary school board if it was established. It's an all-encompassing

amendment. If another one were created, this would then apply to it.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Did the hon. minister wish to reply to the question of the hon. member for Port Arthur dealing with new subsection 32? Was there a question that wasn't answered? Or is the section carried?

Mr. Foulds: I think it was satisfactory answer.

Section 32 agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Any other comments, questions or criticisms on any other section of the bill?

Shall the remaining sections carry?

Sections 33 to 38, inclusive, agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Is it the pleasure of the committee that the division be taken at this point?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am at your disposal, Mr. Chairman, as to the procedure you wish to follow. There is the one section that we are going to look over and bring back perhaps tomorrow, at an appropriate time. Now, would it be better to set the whole thing down and have the divisions later, or to have the divisions now and then leave the bill in committee?

Mr. Foulds: I think it would be better not to have the divisions now, because the major division is on the clause that we have set aside, section 9(6). And that might, in fact, influence our vote on that matter.

Hon. Mr. Wells: If that is agreeable then, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that we set the bill down, leave it in committee, and leave the divisions. I think three of them are outstanding. When we come back to this bill in committee, I will report on my studies on that particular section and then we can then proceed with the divisions, if that is agreeable.

Mr. Ferris: Mr. Chairman, that would be agreeable with us. I think, if possible, if it is going to be a matter of a couple of days, the minister might entertain the thought of reprinting with the renumbering included, if it is possible. There was a fair bit of juggling took place as we went through there tonight.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That is an excellent idea and we'll have the Clerk of the House take that in hand.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be stood down? Agreed.

MUNICIPALITY OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO AMENDMENT ACT

House in committee on Bill 54, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Norton has an amendment to section 8. Are there comments, criticisms or amendments to any section prior to section 8?

Mr. Swart: I would first like to ask a question of the member for Kingston and the Islands.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Would you indicate which section you are speaking to?

Mr. Swart: I'm making a general question first and then I would like to speak to section 2.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: It would be more in order for you to speak to a specific section, and I assume it is section 2. Perhaps you can involve your comments in the form of a question to section 2?

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, upon your suggestion, I will do it in that manner.

Section 1 agreed to.

On section 2:

Mr. Swart: I have some reservations about section 2, but I'd like to have the answer to the question from the parliamentary assistant.

I'm wondering, first of all, what discussion he's had with the city of Metropolitan Toronto with regard to section 2 and with regard to the other sections of this Act. Specifically with regard to section 2, would he give the reason for the introduction of that amendment to section 2, which is subsection 3 of section 22 of the Act presently, which reads that an auditor may only audit the books of the regional corporation if he has not provided any service to the regional municipality, or any of its member municipalities, except as an auditor, and this is being changed to include professional services.

It would seem to me that this would permit an auditor who had been employed as a finance officer of the region or one of the area municipalities, in the following year to audit the books of that municipality. In fact, it would then mean there could be some conflict of interest which wouldn't exist at

the present time. Therefore, I'd like the member to give us the reasons for introducing this amendment and reply to that issue.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I think the question that's raised is a very good question to raise with respect to this section. What is contemplated here is the situation which arises in some cases, perhaps more frequently in smaller communities. As you may recall from your reading of the other legislation which either has been or will be before the House this session, this particular amendment is proposed for the regional municipalities as well.

The situation that it contemplated was where an auditor or an accountant during the course of a year might have worked as a consultant or might be with a firm that had acted as a consulting firm with the municipality and at the end of the present legislation would be precluded from acting as auditor. Our consultation with both the professional associations and with some of the municipalities that had been affected by this type of thing indicated there was very little likelihood of a conflict of interest.

In any event, I should think in the kind of situation that you contemplate there would be some responsibility upon the municipality or the elected officials of that municipality to consider carefully the kind of situation where a previous employee of the corporation might subsequently come back to act as auditor covering a period in which he was a financial officer. That surely is something the elected officials of the municipality should consider very carefully. The intent of the amendment is not to preclude someone under those circumstances from acting as officer and to eliminate what is at present automatically an implied conflict of interest under the legislation.

[10:00]

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, if I may, on that point, unless my colleague from Welland-Thorold thinks we should do so, I think it is not our intention to divide on it.

I think there are two protections. One, as I understand it—and perhaps the parliamentary assistant would confirm it for me—before anyone can be appointed as an auditor in any event, they have to be on an approved list which is with the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs. It's a list of persons who are qualified to conduct that kind of audit. It does seem to me that in one sense that is a protection with respect to the qualifications of persons who might be auditors.

It does seem to me that there is merit in having as a firm of auditors a firm which might, during the time when it is auditors, be asked to and be permitted to carry out a special project not in its capacity as auditors but in its capacity as qualified accountants. There may be a special purpose project which should be carried on. It did seem to me that not only if that special project work antedated its appointment as auditors, unless we had this provision it would preclude that auditing firm from being re-appointed in a subsequent year if, coincident with its role as auditor, it did take on a special project in a particular year which was of financial significance to the municipality itself.

Mr. Norton: Yes, Mr. Chairman, if I may add to my earlier comments, the observations of the member for Riverdale are correct. Apparently, it is a requirement of the Association of Chartered Accountants that the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs license such people. I would also point out that this provision is not original, in the sense that it's already a provision which exists in the Municipal Act and has existed in the province.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall section 2 carry?

Section 2 agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Are there any other comments, questions or amendments to any section prior to section 8?

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, just so that the record will show that we are here, we have no particular comments on sections 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, subsection 1, 16 and 17, all of which deal with this question of the interest to be charged and the level of interest. It appears to us that not only are those very appropriate provisions but in our communications with the area municipalities and with the Metropolitan council we have had no comment about those.

Of course at the appropriate time the parliamentary assistant is going to withdraw section 10.

We have no comment at the moment on 3, 4 and 5.

Sections 3 to 5, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 6:

Mr. Renwick: Would the minister comment on the significance of section 6? I understand what the section proposes and I understand the explanatory note. What is the reason for this? From where did the impetus come that

led to this proposal to provide for special lanes for taxicabs and private motor vehicles?

Mr. Norton: It's my understanding that this request originated with Metropolitan Toronto. The reason for it is to allow them greater flexibility in attempting to find more effective or more efficient ways of handling the volume of traffic on the streets which come under their jurisdiction. You'll note that the provisions in some respects are very similar to recent amendments in the Highway Traffic Act. The one particular provision here that gives them some added authority is that which deals with vehicles with specified numbers of occupants. There have been such provisions implemented on a trial basis in other jurisdictions in North America. This particular one was added here to allow them to try out such provisions, should they choose to, in Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Renwick: Do I take it that the provision related to the number of passengers applies also to the taxicabs?

Mr. Norton: My reading of that would be that it would apply to private motor vehicles as opposed to taxicabs. I stand to be corrected by legislative counsel but my interpretation—and it is indicated to me by a nod of the head that that is the interpretation of legislative counsel—is that that would apply only to the private motor vehicles. The taxicabs would not necessarily be permitted in those lanes on the basis of number of occupants.

Mrs. Campbell: We have not had any particular disagreement with parts of this bill. One of the things I would like to say right off the bat, however, is that I cannot understand why this government insists on bringing in amendments to the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act in the light of the Robarts commission. You seem to be prepared to bring in all sorts of amendments without waiting for the determination of that commission. Then in other cases you won't bring them in because you are awaiting that determination.

In this case, however, I am puzzled. Unlike the interpretation of the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), where it says "taxicabs and motor vehicles carrying such number of passengers," I interpret the number of persons as being applied to the private motor vehicles. However, when you read it in its punctuation form, there is grave doubt as to what you're talking about. I don't suppose we should be that picayune about trying an experiment that may control some traffic prob-

lems. But I would suggest that it is rather loosely worded to make complete sense.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I gather that sections 6 and 7 are carried?

Mr. Warner: No, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The hon. member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

Mr. Warner: On section 6, do I take it that this section would also apply to the Don Valley Parkway—the setting aside of an express lane?

Mr. Norton: I don't believe that the Don Valley Parkway is a road under Metro jurisdiction.

Mrs. Campbell: It is a Metro road.

Mr. Norton: I can't be certain whether it's under Metro jurisdiction or whether it's a provincial highway.

Mrs. Campbell: It is under Metro jurisdiction for that portion in Metro.

Mr. Stong: Metro does the repairs on it.

Mrs. Campbell: Metro built it.

Mr. Norton: If it is under Metro jurisdiction then it would apply, yes.

Mr. Warner: You see, Mr. Chairman, we in Scarborough have had a very serious problem for a long time with respect to transportation, not the least of which has been the Don Valley Parkway, in some respects positive, in some respects negative. But what we lack is an overall transportation plan to get people to and from their places of work, both within the borough or outside Scarborough.

The Toronto Transit Commission had an experimental express bus for use on the Don Valley Parkway. They were dependent upon some provincial funding to run that express bus. Part of the difficulty, and part of the reason, I take it, for terminating the experiment, was the fact that the bus could not negotiate the traffic. I'm wondering if this particular section is supposed to be part of the answer to that. Are we now to have an express lane on the Don Valley Parkway for the exclusive use of buses, taxicabs and other vehicles carrying as many people as you choose to specify? Does this now fit into some grander scheme you have in mind so we can once and for all clean up the trans-

portation problems that we have in Scarborough?

Now I take it from your earlier answers that perhaps you're not operating on very much information. I don't know; I'm very puzzled by the previous remarks. You weren't sure whether it was a Metro road or a provincial road, and I take it from there that you really haven't had very much direction or very much information from Metro Toronto. I'd just like to know where we're going with all of this; and in particular with this section. What are we looking at? What can people in Scarborough expect from the changes proposed here?

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I do know that Scarborough is part of Metropolitan Toronto.

Mrs. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Norton: I would like to suggest to the hon. member that this is permissive legislation. I don't think that it is necessary, in having background information for a particular piece of legislation, that one be able to detail every road within Metropolitan Toronto that happens to come under the jurisdiction of Metropolitan Toronto.

The problems which he cites are problems which Metropolitan Toronto has been attempting to deal with. This legislation is permissive legislation which we would hope—and I presume they hope as well—would allow them to attempt to deal with the kind of problem that he suggests. I'm sure that metropolitan council, on which Scarborough is represented, is well aware of the transportation problems faced by Scarborough. I shouldn't be surprised at all if that is, partly at least, why Metropolitan Toronto requested such permissive legislation.

Mr. Warner: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I take it from your comments that you have had input from the Metropolitan Toronto council in the discussion which led to the formulation of this particular bill. Did you have significant input or any input from the Toronto Transit Commission; and if so can you tell us what particular kind of thing they were looking for?

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't want to mislead the House. I have not specifically had discussions about this section with the Metropolitan Toronto council, and I didn't say that. I said it was my understanding that the request had originated there. Nor have I had any specific discussions with the Toronto Transit Commission.

Mrs. Campbell: There's just one thing I would like to express. Over the years, Yonge St. has been probably one of the greatest bones of contention we have seen. Yonge St. is, for the information of the parliamentary assistant, a metropolitan road.

Mr. Norton: I was aware of that one.

[10:15]

Mrs. Campbell: Sure he knows that. I have, of course, some concerns as to what Metro may do with this insofar as that road is concerned, because they have consistently tried to block any parking, for example, on Yonge St. within the city of Toronto. They don't have that proscription outside Toronto.

If, again, they have the right to close off one lane—we don't have all that many lanes—there is, I would think, a great danger in bringing forward something which might involve the widening of this road at a time of restraint, since Metro doesn't seem to be governed by the restraints that others are, particularly when it gets to ball stadiums and so on.

Have you anything to tell us about any kind of discussion there may have been? Do you know of any discussion there has been with reference to Yonge St. itself because, with the position of your government vis-à-vis Spadina, we haven't seen any kind of real assurance given by this government in that area. The metropolitan council, as it is presently composed, and prior to any decision by the Robarts commission could very well put the whole city and the province in a very embarrassing position should they really wish to limit the use of one lane on Yonge St. on either side.

Since streets have a tendency to run in two directions I presume it means you have two lanes running for this special purpose. It could then mean pressure back on you again to withdraw from your guarantees on Spadina. I would like to have something from you on this and I recognize what a very rotten thing it is that we have someone here before us who is not the author of the bill and who, perhaps, is not as familiar with the problems in the city as the Treasurer certainly ought to be.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, in response to the specific concern raised by the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell), it would seem to me that it is at least equally arguable that the passing of such a provision as this is likely to work to relieve the pressure upon such streets as Yonge St. One

surely doesn't have to read much between the lines to understand what the reference is to the number of occupants of a vehicle. Surely the intent there would be ultimately to encourage the use of car pools in private vehicles. It would seem to me that if that can be encouraged, if that is the objective of Metro, it would have to work to reduce the pressure upon Metro's streets and thereby retard the pressure she fears on such things as the Spadina expressway.

I would see this as working in reverse with respect to the widening of streets, and the way in which she expressed concern.

With regard to whether I can give her any specific undertakings—no, I can't. I think that at some point in time we have to recognize the responsibility of local government and the responsibilities that lie there.

Mrs. Campbell: This isn't a local government.

Mr. Norton: In my terms of reference, I think of metropolitan or area governments as part of municipal governments in this province. They have certain responsibilities to discharge with regard to traffic control and I think we ought to give them, wherever possible, the opportunity to deal with those in the most imaginative ways they can. I don't see the need for the fear that she expresses with regard to these specific provisions.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Chairman, I think it is unfortunate that perhaps, again, the member has not met the traffic commissioner for Metro or he wouldn't be quite so sanguine as he is about the imaginative processes of this particular adviser to Metro.

Would you at least answer my query which I made in my opening remarks here: 'Why is this before us now? Why aren't we just leaving this kind of planning process, this kind of traffic control process, to the Robarts commission? Why bring this in at this time when it could create very serious problems in this area?'

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I suppose we could use the Robarts commission as an excuse for doing nothing in Metro until the commission reports.

Mrs. Campbell: You have, where the local governments want you to do something—you've used it as an excuse.

Mr. Norton: I don't specifically know what the member is referring to.

Mrs. Campbell: No.

Mr. Norton: I think that where there are areas in which we can assist, during the interim period, to deal with the problems that are faced by the Metropolitan Toronto government and the area governments, we should act and not use the Robarts commission as an excuse for delaying. I think there are certain areas where the effects could be irrevocable and much longer-lasting, and I would say yes, in those cases we would be well advised to wait for the Robarts commission report, to see where it fits into the overall structure and recommendations. But I would not see delaying this—which is primarily permissive in an experimental way and has nothing to do with the widening of specific streets—as necessary or desirable at this time.

Section 6 agreed to.

On section 7:

Mr. Renwick: I've got a great deal of confidence in the Toronto Transit Commission now that they have a new general manager.

On section 7, I'm concerned that the qualification that the persons who may be lessees or licensees should be the owners or occupants of the adjoining property is going to be deleted from this section. I'm particularly concerned about that deletion when you take into account that it's going to be extended to cover sidewalks. It does seem to me that, generally speaking, the persons who are the owners and occupants of the adjoining property have the best right to a lease or license of the sidewalks or that untravelled portion of the metropolitan roads.

I don't quite understand what the intention of the municipal council would be in requesting this amendment. I don't know whether the parliamentary assistant has any specific knowledge about it, but it does seem odd that the sidewalk outside a particular establishment could be leased by the metropolitan council to someone who was not the owner or the occupant of the immediately adjoining property.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I would hope that metropolitan council would share the kind of concern that was just expressed by the member for Riverdale. I think what is contemplated here, though, is to remove what was a rather restrictive provision and to allow greater flexibility for the type of thing that one might observe, for example I suppose, on parts of Yonge St. where certain vendors might be licensed to sell at the discretion of

the local municipality in areas where they would not own adjacent land. The present provisions would appear to preclude licensing under those circumstances. I would hope that the same sensitivity would be expressed by the local municipalities, but it does not restrict them as much as the present provisions.

Section 7 agreed to.

On section 8:

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Norton moves that section 8 of the bill be struck out and that the remaining sections of the bill be renumbered accordingly.

Mr. Swart: I realize that the motion calls for this to be struck out. May I ask is this to be struck out indefinitely or rather it is regrouping for introduction in a different form? Our concern with respect to this section is over transferring of power from the area municipality to a higher level and taking it further away from the people, Bill 55 in many respects seems to do this, too. Could you tell me whether it is an indefinite decision?

Mr. Norton: My powers of vision into the future are somewhat limited. It is my feeling that this is a matter which would be better referred to the Robarts commission for consideration, considering the implications of these provisions. It would be my intention to ask the commissioner to take into consideration these matters.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mrs. Campbell moves that section 8 not be struck out but be amended to read as follows: Section 90 of the said Act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

(1) The metropolitan council has, with respect to all land lying within a distance of 150 feet from any limit of a metropolitan road, all the powers conferred on the council of a local municipality by section 35 of the Planning Act, but prior to exercising any or all of the powers provided by this section affecting land within the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto the metropolitan council shall give notice of the proposed exercise of such powers to the council of the local municipality wherein the land is affected and may therefore exercise such powers with respect to land in the area by agreement of the council of the local municipality and not otherwise.

Mrs. Campbell: The effect of that particular section is not only to repeal what you have here but to substitute a change in the present

Planning Act as it pertains to regional municipalities.

We feel if you are going so far as to produce to us an amendment of this kind, which I in the normal course agree ought to go to the Robarts commission, then we should ensure that, for whatever purposes, the metropolitan council, which already has the right in effect under the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act, shall have limited application of those powers. Since it is proposed by us that the regional bills to follow would read in the same form, it would give uniformity to the regional bills as well as to the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto bill.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Noting the hour, perhaps we can continue discussions at the next sitting of the committee.

Hon. Mr. Wells moves that the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed; Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of the whole House begs to report progress and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will deal with legislation both in the afternoon and in the evening. I understand that the order agreed upon is that we will go into committee, start with Bill 64 and then go back to Bill 54, followed by Bill 55; and then proceed to second reading of Bills 84, 90 and 96.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

GRASSY NARROWS RESERVE

Mr. Lewis: Perhaps I could begin by asking the Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. Speaker, whether he is now prepared to withdraw his public allegation (a) describing the freezer problem at Grassy Narrows as apparently deliberate sabotage and (b) suggesting that there might have been political motivations involved in the breakdown of the freezer?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I'm particularly pleased that the Ontario Provincial Police inspector's report exonerates totally the members of my staff. As you know, there were indications that we were negligent, that we were not doing our job on behalf of the Grassy Narrows Indians. I'm particularly pleased that it has been clarified.

With regard to my comments, I indicated yesterday that I was looking into this matter further and I have no further comment to make at this time.

Mr. McClellan: Shame!

Mr. Deans: Are you serious?

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary: what further matters does the minister have to examine, now that he has a conclusive report in front of him, which it doesn't appear will be much elaborated upon? Wouldn't it serve relationships between his ministry and the very difficult problems on those reserves in the northwest much better were he to stand and simply say, "This is clearly not deliberate sabotage; and I'm sorry I implied it in the first instance"?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, as I said just a moment ago, I have no intention of continuing this discussion; it's not in the interests of those people.

Mr. MacDonald: Is that right?

An hon. member: You mean it's not in your interests.

An hon. member: You're not for real.

Mr. Deans: Have you ever heard the words, "I'm sorry"?

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, and only because the ministry is so central to the lives of those reserves, does the minister think he serves the interests of the people of Grassy Narrows by the continued, gratuitous slander of the band that remains unresolved by his refusal to withdraw it? Does he think that serves relationships between government and the band?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, there is no continuous slander or accusations against the band at all. My efforts are solely directed to improving the conditions on that reserve and other reserves in this province. They have been in the past, and they will continue to be just that.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Whether or not the minister is prepared to withdraw from the position that he took when this matter first came before the Legislature, is he not going to undertake to give a full explanation to the House of the circumstances which led to the report from the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth) yesterday, indicating that the fish was already declared inedible on May 18?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I don't have any information on that. No information was directed to me as to the particular dates that were revealed in that particular report. I've asked my assistant deputy minister, Art Herridge, who was the member of that committee that met with those federal people and with the chief and the band councillors on May 20, to give me his impression—and I'm waiting for that report.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: If the minister intends to improve relations, as he does, might he find time to return the phone call to Chief Isaac Mandamin, who's been trying to get the minister all morning about a serious problem on the Whitedog reserve?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, that is the crux of the whole problem right there.

Mr. MacDonald: What is the crux? Are you now smearing the chief?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I tried to get hold of Chief Isaac Mandamin last week when he was in this city. I believe the Leader of the Opposition is very much aware of that; I don't know if he saw him or not.

Mr. Lewis: I didn't.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: But I left a message at the Westbury Hotel in the hope that he would contact me, because I did want to talk to him about the issues that relate to his particular area. Fifteen minutes before coming into the Legislature I was notified of a call coming into my office. I tried to reach the chief at that particular time, but I was unable to, and I will return the call right after question period.

Mr. Lewis: Good. I'm just trying to help communications.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The member certainly is not!

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary; the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, the minister has stated that he did not know that the fish were spoiled on May 18. Is he able to state with any positiveness that no member of his ministry had any awareness of the fact that the federal people had said the fish were no good as early as May 18?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm able to confirm that from my earlier discussions with my assistant deputy minister.

TRI-PARTY APPROACH ON INDIAN PROBLEMS

Mr. Lewis: I'd like to go, maybe with futility, to the Premier and ask him, in view of the latest breakdown in communications between the northwestern bands and officials of the federal and provincial ministries, might he now reconsider and set up some avenue, some focus, through this Legislature, either from within his own caucus or among all three caucuses, to expedite very specific and practical solutions to a number of problems which could be implemented if someone would only take hold of them?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, I think, a few days ago asked our House leader to inquire of me whether or not we would consider, say, three members of this House—one from each of the three parties.

I must say that while I'm always open to suggestions—and I'm not being critical of that suggestion; I don't want to be misunderstood—really I think, in dealing with this difficult and sensitive problem, that might not provide a solution and might be more confusing in the minds of the people we're really anxious to help.

Mr. Lewis: On what point?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I can only say to the Leader of the Opposition that those ministries which have responsibility and are concerned are making every effort to resolve these problems. While we have been disappointed in some aspects, I am assuring members of this House that this will continue to be the policy of the government and we'll continue to pursue this. I don't guarantee that any answer is going to be without its difficulties or that there is a total solution to the problem.

I've listened with interest to some of the discussions here in the House. I've read a great deal of comment and all of it relates to the problem. There have not been too many—and I don't say this critically, because we've been working at this now for many months—I haven't really seen emanating from these articles and discussions here, any solutions to these problems which we haven't already looked at. If the Leader of the Opposition or any member has a suggestion he would seriously like to present to us, other than, say, establishing another committee or expediting—

Mr. Lewis: A member from each caucus to look after it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I say with respect, that I don't see that as a solution. All the member is doing is talking about having different people involved. What I'm looking for are answers to specific programmes by way of government policy. If the Leader of the Opposition has a constructive idea as to what might be done further, I'm quite prepared to listen to it. I've never rejected any worthwhile suggestion from across the House. I may make fun on occasion but if there has been something worthwhile—the members may be amazed—we do take a look at them very seriously and if there is one, we would be prepared to take a look at it and consider it quite seriously.

Mr. Nixon: A supplementary, if I may, Mr. Speaker: How can the Premier take that stand—essentially that he has good people now looking after it and there is no sense

in changing the personnel—when one of the most serious criticisms seems to be that the good people, often heading ministries, are prepared to go up there and talk to the Indian bands, as they did at the meeting on Hallowe'en night which we've been reading about recently, and then make commitments which are not followed up? How can the Premier indicate that his people are dealing in good faith when the commitments they make are not followed up in the way the Indians expected them to be followed up?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think that sometimes these matters are ones of interpretation or, shall we say, the impressions given or left. I say to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk that as it relates to the ministers who have responsibility—and I know the Minister of Natural Resources has been undergoing some criticism—I would only say to the Leader of the Opposition and to the members of this House that I happen to know that hon. gentleman very well. There are very few people who know more about the problem or who have spent more time trying to resolve it than the Minister of Natural Resources. I would say, with respect, he probably knows more about it than most members of this House and in spite of some of the things I have read which have been written about him, he is very sensitive toward this issue and is making a conscientious effort to resolve it. Anything that is suggested to the contrary—

Mr. Warner: The situation hasn't been resolved.

Hon. Mr. Davis: All right. So it hasn't been resolved. But please don't question his motivation or the sensitivity he demonstrates toward this issue because he is—

Mr. Cassidy: That's your comment too.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: Of course the minister knows more. He told us he knew them all by their first names. Obviously he knows more.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask the Premier, since there are a number of clear outstanding problems like the wild rice crop, like the sawmill, like the daycare centre on Whitedog, like long-term economic development—all of them delineated and focused—can he not provide someone within this Legislature to get the blessed job done rather than giving us these

apologias which flow year after year and then nothing follows?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would say to the Leader of the Opposition, it is great to become an instant expert on all of these problems—

Mr. Lewis: It has been six years.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —but we have been dealing with it and we've been making some progress. We've been disappointed on some problems, yes, I acknowledge it, but it is not totally the fault or responsibility of this government and there is no one coming in here insulting us.

Mr. Warner: Whose fault is it?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We are attempting to deal with it and I think as effectively as we can, given the circumstances with which we're faced.

PLUTONIUM HAZARDS

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Minister of Health: Did the minister see the report on the plutonium workers in the United States in today's Globe and Mail, I believe, and can we ask him, does the jurisdiction of Ontario have any control over the exposures to which workers in Chalk River are subjected, however few in number they may be, and has he any plans for pretty tough containment of the hazard when plutonium is used in Ontario as is now under discussion?

Hon. F. S. Miller: While I didn't read the article myself, I've been made aware of it and I'm told that this is one of the most toxic radiation hazards that we have. In fact, as far as we know, Chalk River's laboratory is the one place it is being used in Canada and it is under very strict control there. Apart from that, we don't have any further detailed information on the hazards in Canada or any results to workers.

I'm told that in the United States some 18,000 people have been exposed to it over the period of their life, but even there the records aren't good enough to tell us any more than that it is an intensive hazard. I'll be finding out more about it from my staff as soon as I can get more information.

[2:15]

WELFARE RECIPIENTS

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Minister of Community and Social Services, if I may: Has the minister been informed of the report, which I believe appeared in the Ottawa Citizen today, dealing with the statements he made yesterday about the reduction in the number of welfare recipients as they apply to the region of Ottawa-Carleton, and is he aware that in fact the number of employable welfare recipients jumped by 67 per cent this year over last in the Ottawa-Carleton area? Is the minister further aware that the alleged percentage decline which he described may well be attributed to the number of unemployable welfare recipients who have been transferred to family benefits programmes and may have little, if anything, to do with his ministry's earlier initiatives?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I haven't read the report in the Ottawa Journal; however, I do not accept the conclusions that the Leader of the Opposition makes. First of all, my figures are province-wide; they do not apply to any one municipality, but if there is one municipality that would have a decided impact on them it would be Metropolitan Toronto, and I would ask the hon. member to look at those. In fact, in Metropolitan Toronto there was a further drop this past month, the commissioner told me yesterday in Owen Sound. I think it's fair, indeed, to look at what has happened, and the hon. member will find that the rather extreme or substantial drop in case loads is due to the tightening up of eligibility and the manpower linkups that we have made. I am convinced the programme is working and working very well.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, has the minister looked at the figures for the transfer from general welfare assistance to family benefits and calculated that into the figures he used?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: First of all, when we're talking about the tightening up of eligibility, the change in the regulations applied only to the general welfare assistance. Of course there is a different type of caseload when you are dealing with general welfare assistance than when you are dealing with family benefits. If you look at family benefits you'll find that about a half of the caseload are those who are permanently unemployable and permanently disabled—

Mr. Lewis: Right.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —and the other half probably would be mothers with children. So the permanent caseload, which we fund 100 per cent, is a different type of caseload alto-

gether. General welfare assistance is the area we have tackled initially, I think with success, because it's the short-term unemployed and, of course, there are many more employables on that caseload.

Mr. Roy: As a supplementary, did the minister, prior to making his comments on a province-wide basis, have the Ottawa figures? Secondly, if he did, how can he make that type of statement generally across the province when the figures in Ottawa seem to be clearly out of line with his estimates? In other words, while he talks about a decrease of 10.6 per cent, there is an increase of 67 per cent in Ottawa. Thirdly, does the minister agree with the social service commissioner, Stuart Godfrey, who said that the problem in Ottawa basically is one of job opportunities and not a question of a ripoff?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We're not talking about a ripoff.

Mr. Cassidy: The minister was.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: First of all, let me answer the member's question.

Mr. Roy: The minister was suggesting it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Surely all of the statistics from the various agencies were considered in determining what the Ontario average was and what our experience is in Ontario. That's No. 1.

Also if the member had read my remarks, he would have found reference to the fact that naturally there will be some differences in terms of experience depending where one is in Ontario because we're talking about averages.

Mr. Roy: Why did the minister mention Ottawa?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What I've said is completely accurate and correct.

Mr. Lewis: I wouldn't bet on it.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary: Since economic conditions have always been the major reason that employables have gone on to welfare, has the minister the figures or will he table on Thursday the figures of employables on welfare in the province at the municipal level and how that compares with the same period last year?

Mr. Lewis: That's a good question. That will tell the truth.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I don't think what the member stated is a conclusion. He's asked

for some figures. Certainly I'd be happy to provide the member with those figures. As a matter of fact, I'd be surprised if he didn't want those figures when my estimates are dealt with in the House on Thursday.

Mr. Speaker: This will be the final supplementary.

Mr. Roy: Can the minister advise whether there are any other areas of the province which seem to be out of line with his figures, as Ottawa-Carleton is? Are there any other areas where there's a special type of problem, apart from Ottawa-Carleton?

Mr. Lewis: The minister's figures are going to collapse around him.

Mr. Yakabuski: They are not. He has only dented the fenders.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I don't have the breakdown of the individual ingredients. What I'm dealing with is in terms of totals. I talked to him in terms of the average for Ontario, our working experience for Ontario, which I think my ministry was concerned about.

FARM INCOME STABILIZATION PLAN

Mr. S. Smith: I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. In view of the opinions of many interested parties, particularly the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, would he be willing to undertake, if, later today or whenever it comes up, Bill 96 passes on second reading, that it would go to a standing committee so that the various groups in the community which have been in contact with him, I'm sure, and with myself would have a chance to bring their opinions before the members of the Legislature?

Hon. W. Newman: I'll make that decision tomorrow.

Mr. S. Smith: It is not going to be debated today?

Hon. W. Newman: The bill will be debated today, on second reading in principle.

Mr. S. Smith: We won't pass it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. MacDonald: Supplementary: Why does the minister have to delay in making the decision since no farm organization has

had any opportunity for input into this bill and it's in striking contrast to what the OFA has been asking?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Nonsense.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Nonsense.

Hon. W. Newman: Quite obviously the member hasn't been in touch. I was talking to the president of the OFA about 1:30 this afternoon. I understand he will be in the gallery later on today. He has some concerns about the bill.

Mr. Breithaupt: That's real input.

An hon. member: That's democracy.

Hon. W. Newman: It's quite obvious where you stand.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, but we are going to oppose the bill.

Hon. W. Newman: Let me make it very clear to the hon. members that, as far as the federation is concerned, I told the president of the federation I would take time to meet with him before we got into it clause by clause.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, that's nice of the minister.

Mr. Nixon: Very good of him.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is the sort of—I was going to use the word "ruction" but I can't think of the right word—that occurs. I understand this bill will be debated later on today at some time. Therefore I think the decisions on the questions which have been asked will be settled at that time. We should not waste the time of the question period the way it has been in the last two or three minutes.

OHC ADMINISTRATION

Mr. S. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your ruling. I have a question of the Minister of Housing. Can the minister confirm a report we've had that a group of outside consultants has been asked to look into OHC to consider its method of operation and to consider the possibility of bringing those functions back from the Crown corporation into the ministry itself?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I believe the hon. member is referring to a study that is going on as to the reorganization of the ministry in its

entirety, which would include the operation of the Ontario Housing Corp., but no consulting firm was employed specifically to deal with bringing the Ontario Housing Corp. back into the ministry.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary: Could we request of the minister that he tell us the names of the consultants making this study, the terms of reference of the study and particularly those terms of reference which apply to the OHC?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I will bring the information as to the names of the consultants to the hon. member.

Mr. S. Smith: And the terms of reference.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Yes, we'll bring that.

Mr. Cassidy: And the cost.

Mr. Lewis: And the report and the decision and the design.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

GRASSY NARROWS RESERVE

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Minister of Health: Is the minister aware of recent testing for tunnel vision which, as he knows, is the hallmark of mercury poisoning?

Mr. Roy: It is all on that side.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It is all on that side.

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: I wish it were that amusing but unfortunately this is a serious matter among the Grassy Narrows Indians. This testing has been under the auspices of the federal government. Is the minister aware that this testing has now revealed a very substantial percentage of persons affected in this way and the testing has included children 12 years of age and up?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I think last week questions of that general nature were asked about neurological signs and symptoms which were abnormal and that was one of the ones shown I believe. Certainly I am aware of them. I think some of these tests were done by a doctor from the Sick Children's Hospital, a Dr. Stobo Prichard, I believe, and I am sure others have done the same field of vision tests.

I think if the member would do the same as I have, and I am sure he will, that is, check with some of the experts, he will find

that while that is a symptom which may be related to mercury poisoning it needs to have other symptoms with it to ensure that it is related to the problem. Therefore, they have been very cautious to say these people may exhibit signs of mercury poisoning without being affected by mercury but that they deserve further study.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary: Is the minister not in possession of information indicating that tunnel vision is rarely found in children under any other circumstance than mercury poisoning and that alcoholism, malnutrition and so on, do not cause tunnel vision in such large numbers as has been discovered in this particular federal testing? If he will agree that this is mercury poisoning, could he tell us the next step that the Ministry of Health will take on this matter?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I know that there are going to be recommendations given to this government when the final report from the group that went to Japan and to Iraq is given to us. It may well have been finalized on Friday. I was trying to find out, as a matter of fact, during the course of the morning, if the editor has finalized it.

At that time, we will need, I think, to move carefully to ensure that we don't simply say we would like to carry out certain procedures involving the Indians without having consultation with them. I am very sensitive to their desire to be consulted perhaps before any public announcement is made. If this House would bear with me, I think we will achieve that goal if we work carefully with the Indians.

BROWNDALÉ OPERATIONS

Mr. S. Smith: A final question on another topic for the Minister of Health. Is the minister aware that a well organized campaign in defence of Browndale by so-called Browndale parents is actually directed from Browndale offices, uses an old Browndale post office box as the return address and involves an employee of a Browndale organization who is now with Brown Camps' residential and day school?

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, Mr. Speaker, but as a minister of the Crown I have often wondered if letters to the editor weren't sometimes organized the same way.

Mr. Yakabuski: That's awful—that's terrible.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary question: Given the surrealistic level to which the minister has allowed this entire matter to degenerate and considering the great damage being done as a direct result of his inability to answer our questions and clear the air, can we expect his full report and a copy of the famous audit before the House rises for the summer?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Not necessarily, Mr. Speaker. I have tried to check to see whether an undertaking to give an audit to this House was ever made. I find it might be a very difficult thing to promise that an audit be revealed, for this or for any other group to which we have access.

[2:30]

Mr. Shore: Supplementary: It is interesting; I asked the other day if the minister would put that audit before this House, as I was led to believe that promise was made to this House. Could I hear his comment again? He said he's trying to find out whether that was promised to this House?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, as I recall the member's comments the other day, he accused me of not making the promise. Would he go back to Hansard and read it again?

Mr. Shore: I am not accusing the minister of anything.

On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. With the greatest respect, Mr. Speaker, I have not had an answer to the question today or the question that I put the other day, that the minister promised to give. I haven't had that answer.

Mr. Speaker: I can't help that.

Mr. Yakabuski: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the Minister of Health on the audit that we hear so much about with regard to Browndale: I'm wondering, how far back will that audit go? Will it cover the period from the founding of the Browndale organization? Will it name the directors over that period? Will it tell of the salaries paid? Will it go into all that kind of detail?

Mr. Samis: General, you haven't changed a bit.

An hon. member: They're going to get you, Stephen.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, some of the members opposite could help me answer those questions.

Mrs. Campbell: Not this caucus.

Mr. Roy: Paul, I want to help you for the next time. You are in big trouble there; 1,000 people at the meeting. You are in trouble.

Mr. Lewis: You won't be here to ask that question next time around, Paul.

BREAK-IN AT BROADCASTER'S APARTMENT

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, last Thursday the member for Hamilton West raised a question regarding the conduct of the Ottawa police department following a break-in at the apartment of broadcaster Don McNeill. As I understood the question, there was a concern about a delay in the response by the police, as it was stated that the identification unit was not sent to the McNeill residence at all. The information provided to me differs with both these points.

I am informed that it is standard police procedure not to check for fingerprints until the occupant of the premises returns, as it is a messy procedure and people are often annoyed if it is done without their consent. The Ottawa police, therefore, secured the apartment when they were notified of the break-in and left a message for Mr. McNeill to contact the department upon his return.

Mr. Breithaupt: And they told him not to touch anything.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: When Mr. McNeill did call, he spoke to the detective on the information desk, but unfortunately the detective responsible for the investigation was not immediately available. The detective went to the apartment some two hours later.

Mr. McNeill has since expressed his appreciation to the police for leaving his apartment in the same condition as when the break-in was discovered by the doorman.

Mr. Bullbrook: You don't really believe that do you?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Because of his concern that the fingerprinting process would cause damage, he requested the police not

to fingerprint several of his books. The officers complied with his wishes.

The information I have, therefore, indicates that the Ottawa police force conducted this investigation in an appropriate manner.

TENANTS' SECURITY SYSTEM

Mr. Philip: A question of the Minister of Housing: Can the minister tell the House why representatives of the Ottawa Tenants' Council and the Federation of Ontario Tenants' Associations have been denied access to a study of security done by Mr. Dean Owens, with the support and co-operation of the tenants, and will the minister make that study public?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I'm not familiar with the study that the hon. member is referring to and I can't make a decision at this stage whether or not it will be made public. I don't know anything about it.

Mr. Philip: Supplementary: Is the minister aware that the board of directors of the Ottawa Housing Authority has recommended serious consideration of the Ottawa Tenants' Council proposal that the tenants run their own security systems but that Mr. Fred Peters, who is the branch manager for eastern Ontario, has turned it down on the grounds that the Ottawa Tenants' Council "aren't ready yet for that kind of thing"? I'm wondering if the minister can tell us if there are criteria that have been used to judge the readiness of a group to handle their own security programme and if he can tell us what these criteria are.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member knows very well that I'm not familiar with that particular study. I don't know whether or not such statements have been made and I certainly haven't developed any criteria but if I do get some I'll pass them along to him.

WINTARIO

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Culture and Recreation.

Aon hon. member: Oh, he's here.

Interjections.

Mr. O'Neil: Taking into consideration the non-political nature of Wintario funds—

Mr. Nixon: Amen, brother.

Mr. O'Neil: —and the fact that approval letters and cheques for Wintario grants are delivered to Conservative members at their Queen's Park offices for presentation by the member concerned in his constituency—

Mr. Roy: Did you do that, Bob?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Never.

Hon. J. R. Smith: Never here.

Mr. O'Neil: —can the minister please tell me if it would be possible to extend this courtesy to all members of the Legislature, rather than having his ministry mail out Wintario grant approval and cheques—

Hon. B. Stephenson: Never had them.

Mr. O'Neil: —to the recipients in ridings not held by his party, as has been the custom in the past?

Mr. Yakabuski: A full apology is required.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I'm delighted to know that at least one member of that particular group is enthusiastic about the purpose for which Wintario funds are being expended, and no doubt he'll have a word with the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio), but I would point—

Mr. Peterson: You sound like the Premier. Answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I am. I am answering.

Mr. Warner: That's an insult.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I have no reason to believe that there is any distinction made between any member of this Legislature with respect to this particular matter.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: Well, I'll tell you there are members here who are not getting those cheques.

Mr. O'Neil: May I ask, therefore, if Wintario grants for my riding can be sent to me for my personal delivery and could the minister ask possibly—

Some hon. members: No way.

Mr. O'Neil: —in the Legislature today which other members of the opposition parties would like the same courtesy extended to them?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: The board members won't have a job left.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat that all members are treated alike with respect to this information. If the hon. member has a specific concern, I share it.

An hon. member: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: This is the final supplementary on this.

Mr. O'Neil: Is the minister aware that in some cases this is being done, and if it is being done I think this should be extended to the members of the opposition.

Mr. Speaker: I believe that was the original question.

Mr. MacDonald: Which cases?

Mr. O'Neil: I'll send this over to the minister.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: Lorne is out delivering them right now.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Minister without Portfolio from Cochrane North has the answer to a question.

COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENCES

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, this is a question that the hon. Leader of the Opposition asked last Friday concerning commercial fishing licences and the Whitefish Bay Indian band.

The Whitefish Bay Indian band holds a band licence on Caviar Lake and Dogpaw Lake. The licence is issued in the chief's name for recording purposes, but all members of the band are allowed to fish under its authority. The fishery is for whitefish, pike and pickerel, except for the pike in Dogpaw Lake which are high in mercury content. The licence permits fishing at any time of the year.

The band also held a fall and winter licence on Regina Bay and Long Bay of Lake of the Woods, but have not renewed this licence since 1971. On June 4, 1976, they made application for renewal and were assured that the licence would be issued.

At the same time, they were told that their previous licence on Lobstick Bay of Lake of the Woods could be renewed if they wished to apply. This licence has not been issued since 1972.

I wish to add that no new licences have been issued on Lake of the Woods to any-

one for the past 10 years but several transfers have been approved.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: I think I asked the minister, but could he indicate how many licences have been issued to non-Indians in that area? What are the comparative numbers between Indians and whites?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: As I have just indicated, Mr. Speaker, there's been no new licence issued in the last 10 years. There's been some transfers, and I understand that when transfers are applied for by the native people they are given high priority. As to the exact number of licences that are held by Indians and non-Indians, I would be pleased to get that information for the member.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAMME

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I have a two-part question for the Attorney General: Does the Attorney General believe that discretion is the better part of valour, and if he does, would it not be discreet for him to introduce legislation into this assembly to see whether or not he could validate the agreement between the government of Ontario and the government of Canada before we recess?

Mr. Laughren: Let's stir the old pot.

Mr. Nixon: That would be a good idea.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member for Riverdale and I think all members of the House are aware, this matter is presently before and is being considered by the Supreme Court of Canada, and I think it would be most presumptuous of this government—

Mr. Nixon: Risky too.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —and indeed disrespectful of that court, to introduce any legislation until we have the benefit of their wisdom.

Mr. Renwick: Leaving aside the questions of presumption and disrespect, does the Attorney General intend to interrupt our summer vacation?

Mr. Speaker: That's hardly of urgent public importance.

GRAND RIVER DAM PROJECT

Mr. Worton: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. In

view of the fact that there is renewed activity by the Grand River Conservation Authority to construct the West Montrose dam in Pilkington township, and in view of the fact that there have been objections raised by a number of townships in Wellington county, as well as by a number of concerned citizens, will the minister give consideration to having the proposed project reviewed by the Environmental Assessment Board in order to prove that it is necessary?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes, Mr. Speaker, if there is the amount of objection that the hon. member indicates, there's no problem in having a hearing.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Renfrew South.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

TRUCKING RATES

Mr. Yakabuski: I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. I am wondering if the minister might advise whether the highway carriers of this province are subject to the rules and regulations of the Anti-Inflation Board. And if not, whether he intends to bring in legislation or whatever, to make that group more responsible, so that rather than just filing rate increases with the Ontario Highway Transport Board, they be required to justify any increases they might wish to make in their carrier rates.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, it would be my understanding that all companies operating within Canada are subject to the terms of the Anti-Inflation Board, if those companies fall within the guidelines as established by the AIB. I don't think highway transport companies would be different to any other firms. That's about all the answer I can give the hon. member at this time.

Mr. Yakabuski: A supplementary: Does the minister not think that we might make this group that I speak of, the highway carriers, more efficient and perhaps more responsible insofar as rates are concerned if they were required to justify any rate increases they request?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I don't necessarily think that's the case, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Wildman: A supplementary: Does that mean that the minister is opposed to rate control in the trucking industry in Ontario? And

if that is the case, then it doesn't really matter if they are subject to the Anti-Inflation Board if the court decision goes against the government.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I would say yes to the first part of the question; and I don't think that second part needs an answer.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES' NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Samis: A question to the Minister of Labour: Could the minister report to us on the labour dispute between the 37 employees of the Leeds-Grenville-Lanark district health unit and the unit?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, this dispute reflects the situation in many other areas in the province at the present time, in that the nurses have had a meeting this past weekend and have decided that they will withdraw services, but they have not set a date for that as yet. At the present time we are still working in an attempt to get both parties back to the bargaining table in the hope that we will be able to provide a solution to the problem.

[2:45]

Mr. Samis: Supplementary: In view of the fact that the last offer from the unit was on Jan. 28 and in view of the fact that this particular district is the lowest-paying of 43 CUPE bargaining districts in Ontario, would the minister consider that the unit is operating in good faith?

Hon. B. Stephenson: If the offer which was made by the unit in January in fact is similar to that which was made by the other units, then I suppose I would have no real question about whether they were operating in good faith or not. Unfortunately, as the hon. member well knows, certain of the public health boards last year did not take advantage of the offer of the Ministry of Health to reopen the contracts of the public health nurses; as a result, those boards are left paying nurses at a much lower rate than are many other boards in the Province of Ontario, and therein lies a part of this difficult problem.

ELGIN COUNTY RESTRUCTURING

Mr. Spence: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. It has been pointed out to me by some of the residents of Elgin county that the debate on restructured gov-

ernment is being allowed to proceed as usual when a survey, conducted by MacLaren's Ltd. and commissioned by the province, clearly reveals that 66 per cent of the residents of Elgin county are opposed to restructured government. Can the Treasurer assure me, and through me the residents, that the results of the report are being given full consideration in the debate on restructuring of the government there?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I haven't seen the report in question. I will be glad to have a look at it and get back to my friend from Kent-Elgin. I would point out to him, of course, that I know he and his party would also subscribe to the view that we should also listen to the elected representatives of the people, and not just to some sort of a public opinion poll.

Mr. Roy: Have you been doing that?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: At least we would hold that view on this side of the House. Whether the members over there would, I don't know.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Kent-Elgin, I believe, wished a supplementary, did he not?

Mr. Spence: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the Treasurer that he must listen to the voters too.

Mr. Nixon: A supplementary: Is the Treasurer aware that this paper, which he dismisses as a public opinion poll, was commissioned and paid for in large part by funds over which he has control? And if he is going to look into this, will he also examine why the paper itself was ready last summer and its being made public was postponed until after the election? Can he explain why that was delayed?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, the commissioners report to a local committee of the county council and, I assume, a committee of the city of St. Thomas. I don't have control over those funds.

Mr. Shore: Yes, you do.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: That's the kind of centralist Grit attitude—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We say to the municipalities of this province, "If you want to have a study, we will match you up to half

of \$100,000." We don't nitpick over every penny of it. We don't look at every dollar and say, "Spend it here, and don't spend it there"—

Mr. Nixon: You pay for it, and then you dismiss it as meaningless.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: You Grits are so centralist, you are worse than your friends in Ottawa.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: You will lose out.

Mr. Shore: You are embarrassing your leader, Darcy.

Mr. Cassidy: That's a difficult act to follow.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have time for the answer from the Minister of Education to a question asked previously.

SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT SURVEY

Hon. Mr. Wells: This is a rather lengthy answer to a question asked by the leader of the Liberal Party yesterday concerning the interface study.

Mr. Speaker: The question period has just about expired. In fact, it has expired, but we will allow the question and answer if the hon. members wish, because there is no time being taken from the rest of the question period.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It concerns the interface study between the secondary school system and the universities of this province. The study in question is known as project II of the interface study. It's "The Nature of Students" and involves the testing of secondary students in English in grades 12 and 13; mathematics in grades 12 and 13; physics in grade 13; French in grade 13; and français in grades 12 and 13.

The principal investigator is Dr. Ross Traub of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Dr. Howard Russell of the same institute is in charge of field co-ordination.

A randomly selected sample of about 67 secondary schools participated. Most of those initially selected agreed to take part. Some schools opted out because of scheduling problems or because they'd been heavily researched in the recent past or because of concerns over loss of instruction time. As

many as possible of these schools were replaced by statistically equivalent schools.

The testing sessions in the participating schools were scheduled to take part on a regular school day. In most schools it took place on Wednesday, May 26.

The amount of absenteeism from these sessions varied from school to school. A certain amount of absenteeism was expected. Enough additional information is available about both the students who wrote and those who were absent to check on whether the sample writing was representative and, if it was not, to make statistical corrections.

The researchers have tabulated this information for a few schools and it appears to them that despite the absentees the sample writing was quite representative.

The full picture will not be known for several weeks but on the evidence to date the absenteeism is not expected to affect the general conclusions which can be drawn.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Burr: On a point of order, on Friday I asked the Premier a question and he indicated he would try to get me an answer for today, before the 10:30 deadline tonight. He has not done so. Does this mean that he intends to be with me at 10:30 tonight?

An hon. member: You set him up beautifully.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I can say that of all the members opposite there are very few whose company I would appreciate more than the hon. member's at 10:30 tonight, but I don't expect to be sharing that with him.

I have had a very brief discussion with the Minister of Agriculture and Food who, in turn, is discussing the same question with the Minister of the Environment. I regret that the answer isn't available this afternoon; it will be on Thursday. We will be here, Mr. Speaker, next Tuesday evening. If the hon. member isn't content, if he would ask me the question again so that technically he could raise it Tuesday evening next at 10:30, I might even be here to join him in whatever discussion takes place.

Interjections.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. S. Smith: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker—and I ask your guidance on this particular matter, which I think is a serious one—it is my understanding that earlier today the Minister of Health tried to deny that a commitment had been given earlier by a cabinet minister to this House to produce an audit of how public funds are being used and have been used in this province with regard to Browndale.

On April 22, 1976, in answer to a supplementary question from the Leader of the Opposition, the Attorney General had the following exchange:

Mr. Lewis: In order to clear the air, to clarify matters as soon as possible, can an undertaking be given that the results of the audit and whatever it shows be tabled in the House and a statement be made to the Legislature as soon as possible?

This was about two months ago.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I see no reason why that cannot be done, Mr. Speaker.

That was the end of that exchange.

I would ask you to rule, Mr. Speaker, that we are being stonewalled here and that the government is going back on a commitment given to this House—

Hon. Mr. Davis: You are not being stonewalled.

Mr. Nixon: By the Attorney General.

Mr. S. Smith: —by the Attorney General.

Hon. F. S. Miller: First, the hon. leader of the Liberal Party did not hear me say today that a commitment had not been made. He heard me say I was not sure that a commitment had been made.

Mr. S. Smith: Now you are sure.

Hon. F. S. Miller: All right. I think the member needs to read that again carefully to see whether it says the audit would be given or the results of the audit.

Mr. Speaker: I don't think there is anything further to add to that.

Mr. Conway: Are you afraid of it?

Mr. S. Smith: What is the coverup for?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Presenting reports.

Motions.

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that when the House adjourns on Thursday, June 10, it will stand adjourned until Monday June 14; fur-

ther, notwithstanding any previous order, that the House will sit on Wednesday, June 16.

An hon. member: Long live the NDP.
Motion agreed to.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of personal privilege in reference to a statement just made by the leader of the Liberal Party suggesting some cover-up. The question that was put to me by the Leader of the Opposition was in reference to the results of the audit. That was with his question and I indicated at that time that I would see no reason why the results of the audit would not be tabled, as opposed to the audit itself. I find it most offensive for the leader of the Liberal Party to suggest there is some form of coverup.

Mr. Nixon: We have been waiting months for this report.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: All right, just hear me out.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I was going to give an answer to the leader of the Liberal Party today, and that request was given late to the Speaker, to indicate the dimension of the problem.

The Browndale organization involves some 25 related companies carrying on business in eight different areas and regions in this province and some 90 properties in all are owned or rented. In order to pursue the investigation as suggested by the leader of the Liberal Party, a very arduous and meticulous task is required. I'm advised by my counsel that the investigation is ongoing but, in view of the scope that is required, the investigation will take some further time. I can give no assurance that any investigation will be completed before this House rises. But, Mr. Speaker, I think it is most improper to suggest that in the circumstances anybody on this side of the House is engaging in any form of coverup.

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I will gladly reply to this.

Mr. Speaker: Very, very briefly, please.

Mr. S. Smith: Yes, I will be very brief. I certainly will gladly withdraw the coverup comment. But I hope that the cabinet will appreciate that patience runs thin after four

and five months of asking for the same report and the same information about public funds being spent in this province.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: You are persecuting that poor man over there.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, the Treasurer has had a bad day. Just forget it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let's get on with the business. Were there any further motions?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have a motion before the House.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I have a motion.

Mr. Lewis: Hold on. We are discussing the Treasurer's leadership.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I am worried about your credibility. They keep tormenting you every day.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Is the Leader of the Opposition subject to recall?

Mr. Breithaupt: Total recall.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, may I presume to move—

Mr. Lewis: Sit down until the exchange is over.

Hon. Mr. Welch: moved that Mr. Maeck be substituted for Mr. McNeil on the select committee considering the fourth and fifth reports of the Ontario Commission on the Legislature and that Mr. McNeil be substituted for Mr. Maeck on the select committee on highway safety.

Motion agreed to.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Bullbrook: On a point of order relevant to the actual orders of the day and the proceedings of the House, may I inquire when the motion passed before the administration of justice committee yesterday relating to the estimates of the Ombudsman will be available to this House for debate?

[3:00]

Mr. Speaker: I have no information on that, I can tell the hon. member—

Mr. Bullbrook: Would you entertain the possibility, through your good offices, of asking the House leader when that might come about, or asking the chairman of the committee when that might come about?

Mr. Makarchuk: Ask your own House leader.

Mr. Speaker: These things are presented in the normal way to Mr. Speaker, and I think that's my duty.

Introduction of bills.

I believe the hon. Treasurer has a bill to introduce.

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the District Municipality of Muskoka Act, 1976.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, briefly, this bill reflects in most respects the Regional Municipalities Amendment Act, which received second reading a week ago, in that the district municipality of Muskoka is to have its granting powers broadened and its borrowing powers brought into line with Municipal Act. Many of the provisions are the same, but there are four provisions in this Act which pertain specifically to the district of Muskoka.

The first concerns the frequency of meetings of the police liaison committee and the Ontario Provincial Police. At the request of the district council, it is now proposed these meetings take place at least once every three months, rather than once every month as formerly stipulated.

Second, it removes from the area municipalities the authority to set up urban service areas for water and sewer purposes, thus clarifying these to be the responsibility of the district municipality.

Third, money in the pollution control fund must be used only for pollution control measures, and for services which concern sewage works.

Lastly, a section of the original Act now obsolete is repealed. That is the provision authorizing contributions from the provincial consolidated revenue fund in the years 1971-1975.

MUNICIPAL SUBSIDIES ADJUSTMENT REPEAL ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to repeal the Municipal Subsidies Adjustment Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, it has been the principle of Treasury to adjust municipal unconditional per capita grants for certain municipalities in which annexations have occurred. The Minister of Transportation and Communications similarly adjusts the road subsidies where restructuring has occurred.

In view of the substantial increases in unconditional transfers from \$54 million in 1970 to \$345 million in 1975, these adjustment subsidies are no longer necessary.

Furthermore, in recent years there have been two vehicles, this Act and the transitional assistance under the Ontario Unconditional Grants Act, 1975, for phasing-in additional road responsibilities due to boundary changes. Consolidation of this process into the Ontario Unconditional Grants Act will provide a more efficient mechanism for this type of assistance.

The per capita grant adjustments for currently eligible clientele are very small—\$17,000 over five years for eight municipalities, ranging from \$23 per annum to one municipality to \$1,253 per annum to another. In fact, it probably costs more to administer these payments than the value of the subsidies themselves.

Accordingly, it is proposed to make payments to eligible recipients in one lump sum. Current clientele for road subsidy adjustments will continue to receive payments in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of the Act.

POWER OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Bullbrook: I wanted to go in deeply, with the Speaker's indulgence, to what I understand are background—I'll use the word machinations, in connection with what happened with respect to the Ombudsman's estimates. While not being a member of the committee, I appreciate the indulgence of my colleagues in this respect. As I understand what happened—I was there yesterday—it was felt that in view of standing order 86 it wasn't properly constituted in the view of the majority of the members of the committee there yesterday for them to proceed with the estimates.

At that time, a motion was passed by the majority, not unanimously—may I say it was of a fairly tri-partisan flavour; this isn't a partisan equation. It's one that concerns me as to how we're handling matters in the House. In effect, the motion said that the question of the propriety of increasing the estimates of the Ombudsman, or otherwise, should be dealt with through the law officers of the Crown and directions be sought from this Legislature.

It would be my feeling, notwithstanding the great and abundant knowledge of the rules of this House, that when a motion of that nature is made it's the obligation of the Chairman, at the first possible opportunity, to report that motion to the House, not to pursue the motion. This is extremely important. I want to know, for example, if the chairman has written to the law officers of the Crown because, of course, he has no function in doing so. The government House leader nods in the affirmative.

I want to say that the chairman has no function to do that because that motion has not been debated by this House. I'm going to suggest, frankly, that the proper way of handling it is to report forthwith to this House, under reports. I waited under motions; I waited in both instances. I waited for a point of personal privilege because I'm very concerned. A committee should report to this House. The House has the right to debate the motion put to it by the committee and the chairman or whoever we appoint can undertake the specific and substantive aspects of the motion.

I think it's an extremely important matter. I want to say this if I may—and I don't mean to be unduly offensive—I am just sick and tired of agreements made by the House leaders. I realize that we have to have some regimen; we have to have some order of business but the fact is I don't think parliamentary tradition or the normal orders of business should be circumvented by agreements or otherwise.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, on this point of order, first of all I want to make it clear, having been in the committee at the time this matter was discussed, that my colleague, the chairman of the justice committee, had written to the chief law officer of the Crown prior to the motion being put. The letter had been sent to the chief law officer of the Crown before the committee dealt with the motion put forward by the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea). Therefore, to say that he acted improperly is totally wrong and it should be withdrawn by the member who suggested it.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, can I add a word or two about this point of order? I am very concerned—

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest this? I think this matter should be settled in the committee. The Speaker knows the situation.

Mr. Singer: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wait for the reports to come to the House.

Mr. Lewis: You're going to open up a terrific debate if you allow it to go on.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member should take his seat. It has not come to my knowledge that a report has been withheld or delayed or whatever you might wish to call it.

Mr. Lewis: It is not being circumvented?

Mr. Speaker: The committees operate their own operation and I await any reports when they are ready to be brought forward. Therefore, I think this debate should be carried on in the committee actually. Does the hon. member for Wilson Heights have another point?

Mr. Singer: Yes, Mr. Speaker. This is not a debate. These are points of order, very important points of order. Adding to what my colleague from Sarnia said, I know—and I have seen it—there is circulating in this House at this moment a draft resolution which emerged from the NDP caucus and which apparently has been approved by the government House leader—

Mr. Deans: Where?

Mr. Lewis: What are you talking about?

Mr. Singer: —which is supposedly intended to dispose of the whole matter. This is in advance of the House having received the report of the chairman of the committee. I say that the privileges of the members of this Legislature are being played with in a fast, loose and improper fashion. Mr. Speaker, you should insist that when a committee has passed a resolution that resolution be brought before this House at the first possible opportunity. That's what the point is about.

Mr. Nixon: That's the point of order and you should rule on that.

Mr. Deans: On a point of order and a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think I should take this under advisement. Order, please, just one moment please. I'm not privy to what the hon. member is saying. I'll have to check into the matter that has been raised and report back.

Mr. Deans: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the member for Wilson Heights, like his colleague from Sarnia, is wrong. There is no draft resolution from the NDP; there never was and there is not going to be one.

Mr. Singer: Oh, come on!

Mr. Deans: For someone to stand in this House and to say such a thing without having any evidence—you must ask him, Mr. Speaker, to withdraw that inference. It is wrong.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to ask him to withdraw anything. The assistant pointed out that the chairman of that committee has not been here; I'm not sure if he has been here this afternoon. Perhaps he didn't have the opportunity to report. But I shall check into it anyway and, if there is anything irregular, I shall report back to the House.

Interjection.

Mr. Bullbrook: Let's not deal with the extraneous matters. Is there an obligation or is there not an obligation on the part of a chairman to report a motion of a committee requesting directions from the House forthwith at the first possible opportunity so to do? That is the essence of this matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I say again it is in the hands of the committee. The chairman is not here, and he can't very well report.

Any further bills? The hon. member for Windsor-Sandwich has a bill.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Bounsall moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Bounsall: The purpose of this bill is to reduce from 48 to 40 hours per week the point beyond which working becomes the voluntary choice of the worker.

In addition, overtime pay will commence at 40 hours rather than the present 44. The bill also ensures that persons employed in the growing of flowers for the retail and

wholesale trade and persons performing home work—and by that is meant those who are commonly referred to as domestics who are shamefully exploited and are mainly immigrant women—that both these groups of workers be included under the overtime pay and overtime hours provisions from which they are currently excluded.

PROVINCIAL PARKS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Bernier moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Provincial Parks Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: There are three minor amendments to the bill. The first section is to replace the present definition section of the Act with a more comprehensive definition section. The second section authorizes the Minister of Natural Resources to prepare a master plan for provincial parks and proposed provincial parks and to review and to amend such plans. The third section is to redefine the class of persons that have the power and the authority of the Ontario Provincial Police under the Act and regulations.

Mr. Speaker: Before the orders of the day, I beg to inform the House that as directed by the Board of Internal Economy I have tabled the statement of the members' expenses for the fiscal year 1975-1976.

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day I wish to table the answers to questions 27, 63, 82 and 98 standing on the notice paper. (See appendix, page 3124.)

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The second order, House in committee of the whole.

[3:15]

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT ACT

House in committee on Bill 64, An Act to amend the Housing Development Act.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Are there any comments, questions or amendments to any section of the bill?

Bill 64 reported.

MUNICIPALITY OF
METROPOLITAN TORONTO
AMENDMENT ACT

House in committee on Bill 54, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: When the committee rose last evening we were debating and dealing with the amendment to section 8, as moved by the member from St. George (Mrs. Campbell).

On section 8:

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, this section was of course the most controversial section of the Act when it was tabled. There was opposition to it by many local municipalities within the regions, as well as opposition from our side of the House and, as a result, the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton) had moved that it be withdrawn.

The amendment proposed by the member for St. George makes the section somewhat more acceptable. However, it still requires that there would be agreements between the two levels of government, the regional municipality and the local municipality. I would question at this time whether in fact any consultation has taken place with the municipalities on this particular amendment.

It seems to me that perhaps we should follow the suggestion made by the member for St. George herself in earlier debates, that items of such importance as this should wait for the Robarts commission report. Therefore, we think it should be withdrawn from the bill that is before us. There is the similar clause, of course, for each of the regional governments in Bill 55, and to deal with all of those this time, before the report comes in on Niagara, before the Robarts commission reports or before the review commission reports on the other regional governments, seems to prejudge what they might say on this important matter. Therefore, we in our party think that the clause should be withdrawn.

Mr. Good: Mr. Chairman, I want briefly to give an explanation of the amendment so that there is no misunderstanding. The action of the government amendment would withdraw the amendment as it appears in Bill 55, but would leave the section in the original Metropolitan Toronto bill as it always has been, in that Metro Toronto will have control of 150 ft of roadway lying on either side of any Metro road to the extent

of the powers under section 35 of the Planning Act. The original intention was to enlarge those powers to include the powers of sections 35a and 35b, which were explained the other day on second reading of the regional municipalities bill.

The government has now very graciously said it would withdraw that amendment so that only the powers under section 35 of the Planning Act would be left for Metro to use along its Metro roads, but we are saying simply this: That those powers used unilaterally by Metro would be much better done in co-operation and with an agreement made between Metro and the boroughs, so that in fact both levels of government would have a say in the extent to which the powers under section 35 would be used by Metro.

As the bill now stands, Metro has complete power to use anything under section 35. In many instances, perhaps the top level of government uses the power under section 35 of the Planning Act for only such things as road-widening and curb cuts for access. That may be all right, there may be a verbal agreement to do that, but let us not forget that they do have powers far in excess of that under section 35 of the Planning Act. What we are saying is, it's fine to delete 35a and 35b from the bill, but let's make the powers of the top level of government under section 35 a little more acceptable to both the top level and the lower level; in this case Metro and the boroughs. That is the basis of our amendment.

I hope the hon. member for Welland-Thorold and his party thoroughly understand what we are driving at, to make Metro government and regional government have a more co-operative basis between the two levels, rather than giving unilateral authority to the top level of government to be used in those areas in the lower level of government which could, in fact, destroy the local autonomy of the area government.

Mr. Stong: Mr. Chairman, I concur with my colleague from Waterloo North. The purpose of this amendment to the proposed amendment by the parliamentary assistant is chiefly that in an effort to maintain local autonomy, some autonomy in the local municipal governments, we do not take their power away from them. Section 35 of the Planning Act and its powers have been conferred upon the regional governments by Bill 55 and by Bill 54, and they have been completely taken away from the local municipal governments involved. On

second reading of this bill, my colleague from Welland, and several of the speakers in the party indicated that they believed in local autonomy and that they would strive to protect it.

The power under section 35 of the Planning Act has been taken away from the local municipalities completely. It has been done before. After an effort to extend those powers of 35a and 35b of the Planning Act, which have now been withdrawn, there is still power left under section 35 in the regional council—away from the local municipality. It is very important, if we are going to preserve local autonomy, if we are going to have our locally elected officials have some say in their own destiny and if we are going to strive to get away from a single-tier regional government and the regional system of government, that the two tiers co-operate.

That is the essence, that is the pith and substance of this amendment, that they be allowed and be required to work in concert and that one tier of government not be overlooked to the advantage of the other. We are not proposing a dismantling or doing away with regional government. We are proposing a preservation of autonomy for the local municipal governments and that they have some say by co-operation with the regional council. It is my urgent request and hope that the members of the opposition will accede to that situation and preserve that autonomy which they spoke of the other day; preserve that autonomy at the local level, and that's what this amendment is designed to do.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, I just want to follow along on the proposed amendment by the member for St. George, to which my colleague has just spoken.

When this bill first came before us, on behalf of our caucus I wrote to the chairman of the Metropolitan council and to the mayors of the city of Toronto and each of the boroughs comprising the Metropolitan area. While I received very strong reaction to section 8, which led, at least in part, to the parliamentary assistant withdrawing the section, I did not, during the course of that correspondence and some conversations in connection with it, receive any request that there be any amendment to the existing section as it stood, insofar as it related to the powers of the Metropolitan council with respect to section 35 of the Planning Act.

I want to ask the parliamentary assistant specifically if he received any request that the existing power of the Metropolitan coun-

cil be amended. Or were they content to let the section as it presently reads remain as is, pending, in the case of Metropolitan Toronto the results of the Robarts commission and, presumably, with respect to the regional municipalities, the review under the Planning Act? Could the parliamentary assistant specifically answer that question?

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to answer that question. I met with the chairman of Metropolitan council. I met with the mayor of each of the boroughs in Metropolitan Toronto or his representative—in one case the representative was sent instead—and we discussed, among other things, this specific amendment which I have proposed. At no time was there any suggestion that they would like to see the existing provisions with respect to section 35 removed from the Metropolitan Toronto Act.

If I might add, I think the amendment proposed by the member for St. George is most ill-conceived at this time. Among other things, I think it makes a mockery of all that has been said by members of her caucus with respect to consultation.

There has been consultation—there has been extensive consultation—on this and other sections of this bill. In spite of what those members have been saying out of one side of their mouths, apparently they are now prepared to come to the House and without any apparent consultation and without much forethought introduce an amendment which is not going to deprive municipalities of local autonomy but all it is going to do, by the removal of this section 8, is continue the existing status quo with respect to the powers in the Metropolitan Toronto Act which have been there since the inception of Metropolitan Toronto. I can't understand what the hon. member for York Centre means when he talks about the amendment restoring local autonomy. My amendment has the effect of preserving the status quo and the local autonomy as it existed prior to this.

There is a further inconsistency in this debate which I think ought to be pointed out. That is the member for St. George prefaced her opening remarks by saying, "How can the government, while the Robarts commission is sitting on such matters, dare to interfere with the status quo? You should keep your hands off and let the commission come in with its recommendations."

Mr. Good: How did you?

Mr. Norton: Then she proposes to turn around and remove from the Metropolitan

Toronto Act powers which have existed in that Act from its very inception. If that isn't inconsistency, I don't know what is.

Mr. Swart: Perhaps I would be permitted to say a few more words on this issue by way of clarification of my views. I am not at all convinced that when the government brings back a section which has been taken out and it returns it at some date to this House, it will be strengthening autonomy at least at the local level. I hope that will be the case.

[3:30]

My concern about the proposal before us is that it is just going to confuse the issue. I am tired of the bureaucracy that exists in the planning field, where you have the local municipality, the regional municipality, the government and in some areas the Escarpment Commission, but nothing really happens. The public get so tied up in this bureaucracy, they don't know which way to turn and nothing really takes place.

Now we have amendments before us which mean that both the regional municipality and the local municipality are going to have to deal with this agreement. If there is one thing that's needed for the public, I think it is some clear-cut decision on where authority rests; this would only further confuse it. Therefore, I would like to see the Robarts commission take a good look at this whole issue, bring in its report and we will debate it at that time. May I add, Mr. Chairman, that when it is debated at that time, I am certainly going to be in full support of returning these authorities, where at all practical, to the local level.

Mr. Mancini: When did you start that?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Are you ready for the question? There are two questions to be decided. First, we have the amendment proposed by the member for St. George and, secondly, the suggestion by the member for Kingston and the Islands that section 8 be struck out.

The hon. member for St. George moved an amendment to section 8 which would have section 90 of the Act repealed and her amendment substituted. We will vote first on the amendment proposed by the member for St. George. Do you wish the Chair to re-read it or will you take it as read last evening?

Some hon. members: Take it as read.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of the amendment proposed by Mrs. Campbell will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "nays" have it.

I declare the amendment lost.

The next question to be decided is, shall section 8 stand as part of the bill?

All those agreed will say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

Mr. Nixon: There is a point of order.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I wonder if there is some confusion with respect to the amendment which I proposed and is before the committee.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I will be glad to read the hon. member's amendment again.

Mr. Norton: It would propose the striking out of section 8 of the bill, and I think there may have been some confusion in the way the question was put to the committee.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I think the Chair put the question correctly. We had to deal with Mrs. Campbell's amendment first, and then we would deal with the parliamentary assistant's amendment that section 8 of the bill be struck out; that's what we are voting on now.

All those in favour of Mr. Norton's motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "ayes" have it.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Section 8 is struck from the bill and the remaining sections of the bill will be renumbered accordingly.

Are there any further comments, questions or amendments prior to section 10?

Section 9 agreed to.

On section 10:

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Norton moves that section 10 of the bill be struck out and that the remaining sections of the bill be renumbered accordingly.

Is it agreed that section 10 of the bill be struck out?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Perhaps we can still refer to the sections by the old numbering. The Chairman hasn't renumbered his bill accordingly. Are there any other comments before old section 15?

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, sections 11, 12, 13 and 14 are part of the group of sections that I referred to last night and on which we have no comment. I have no comment also on subsection 1 of section 15. I do have a request for an explanation of subsection 2 of section 15, but I defer to my colleague from Waterloo North.

Sections 11 to 14, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 15:

Mr. Good: Mr. Chairman, mine is a request for an explanation as well, in that when Metro Council took over the senior citizen homes including Lambert Lodge, under the Metro Act, there was provision that in the event that Lambert Lodge was deemed to be unnecessary and not needed any longer, the property would revert to the city of Toronto if it was not needed. This provision is being withdrawn from the bill. At present I understand Lambert Lodge is being rebuilt.

I'm wondering if the parliamentary assistant could give us the background as to why this protection for the city of Toronto, on the reversion of the property to the city from Metro, is now being repealed, so that if Lambert Lodge property ever is considered superfluous and not needed, I suppose it would no longer return to the city of Toronto but would be retained as a Metro asset. Could the parliamentary assistant tell us why this protective section is being repealed?

Mr. Norton: Yes, Mr. Chairman. As I presume the hon. member knows, the provision that does exist in the legislation provided for the reversion at no cost. In the interim there has been an agreement reached between Metropolitan Toronto and the city of Toronto with respect to the use of the premises. In order to permit them to pursue the execution of this agreement, which calls for a certain sharing of the premises by Metro and the city of Toronto, in October of last year, I believe, the Hon. Mr. Brunelle, at that time the Minister of Community and Social Services, was approached by them and asked if it would be possible to have this amended. He agreed at that time. I also have on record a request from the governments involved that this amendment be proposed at this time. So it's in pursuance of a request from the Metropolitan Toronto council and in order to permit them to carry out an agreement they have reached with the city of Toronto.

Mr. Good: The city of Toronto concurs with this?

Mr. Norton: Yes.

Section 15 agreed to.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, we have no comment on sections 16 and 17. We are satisfied with the rewording in section 18 of clarification and extension of the powers of the metropolitan council to invest moneys not immediately required in investments of a temporary nature. I understand from what you say that the next amendment is with respect to section 19.

Sections 16 to 18, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 19:

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Norton moves that section 19 of the bill be struck out and that the remaining sections of the bill be re-numbered accordingly.

Mr. Swart: I rise not to oppose the striking out of this section of the bill but I have two questions with regard to it.

I'd like to say first, in a preliminary way, that the principle involved here seems to me to be a good one and it is the sort of thing, perhaps not in these amounts, that has been requested and I think is being requested by many treasurers across this province and probably would receive the support of the majority of municipalities and municipal associations in the province. The ability to pre-levy sufficient money to carry them through until the returns start coming in on the tax bills makes sense, so that they don't have to borrow such large sums of money as most municipalities do.

The first question I want to ask is this: Will the parliamentary assistant or the minister be bringing in another amendment, perhaps dealing with this same principle, perhaps in different amounts, at a later date? May I ask has this been discussed and can he give some such guarantee, because if not perhaps we might like to amend this rather than have it deleted? Secondly, might I ask him why this section was introduced to give the power to the regional municipality to levy 75 per cent against the local municipalities, but apparently did not provide that local municipalities could pre-levy against the taxpayers, which is at variance with Bill 55?

Mr. Norton: If I could deal with the latter question first: The inconsistency you see in fact would not have been there had the Municipal Act been presented to the House at the same time as this particular piece of legislation. It was intended there be a companion amendment to the Municipal Act that would enable the lower tier municipalities to levy at the same rate. Because the decision to withdraw this provision at this time had

been made prior to the introduction of the Municipal Act, rather than go through the procedure of amending it on the floor it was decided not to include that in the draft that was presented for first reading.

I can certainly concur with the hon. member that there is a great divergence of opinion with respect to the need for this kind of flexibility in municipal financing. It was obviously with that type of thing in mind that the original provision was included in legislation of the regional Acts and also it was intended that it be included in the Municipal Act.

Initially, the concern was expressed mainly by the lower tier municipalities; not because they didn't have the authority, because we assured them that they would be getting it if this provision were enacted, but rather the concern that it might place a great deal of control on their budgeting procedures in the hands of the upper tier. If the upper tier decided to proceed with a 75 per cent levy, the lower tier clearly would have no alternative but to co-operate or else to borrow substantial sums of money in order to meet their commitments.

With respect to your question as to whether another amendment will be brought back at some time? I would say at this point, I am not speaking in terms of a specific policy, but I personally think that it would be desirable that this kind of flexibility be available to municipalities, if there is some way that we could work out with them a procedure whereby the reservations they had about this particular provision were no longer there.

That would apply to regions where there are two tiers, but there are also some concerns expressed by single-tier municipalities where the practice had been that they refrained from interim levies at all. I think it is unfortunate that kind of concern is expressed, because I think it reflects a lack of confidence, in some cases, in the responsiveness of the people who are closest to them in the government structures. I would have hoped that kind of concern would not have been real or expressed. However, until a more acceptable method can be arrived at, it is our decision to withdraw this provision.

Mr. Good: Mr. Chairman, we are certainly glad to see this section withdrawn. I would like to go on record that we in this party would in no way countenance any increase from 50 per cent of interim levy, for the simple reason that municipalities I contacted in the last few months have told me—one, for instance, that levies only 33⅓ per cent

at the present time, has in the millions of dollars now out drawing interest.

My own municipality, which does levy the 50 per cent, has something like \$4.5 million, if I'm not mistaken, out drawing interest at the present time. And remember, any acceleration of tax would do two things. It would make councils procrastinate on the setting of mill rates. And it would make for poor budgeting practices.

The acceleration of tax at the top levels would be passed all the way down to the bottom, and you would find that it would be the ordinary taxpayers who would have to pay the increased amount of interim levy, not knowing what the final mill rate would be.

So we would be very much opposed to any enlarging of the 50 per cent interim levy that would be allowed, either by the top level of government on the local government, or the local level of government on the assessment and on the taxpayers.

Mr. Renwick: I don't know whether this kind of discussion lends itself to that black and white kind of statement. I was particularly impressed, dealing with the correlative section of the Regional Municipalities Amendment Act related to the regional municipality of York, when the treasurer of the township of Richmond Hill indicated that what appears to be the reason which had some appeal to the treasurer of that particular area municipality, was that the limitation as it presently existed resulted in a net overall cost to the regional government simply because the regional government had to borrow temporarily because of the limitation, which was too restrictive.

I note in the treasurer of Richmond Hill's comments that he thinks that 75 per cent may be too high, but that there is some area where, by negotiation and the exercise of judgement, a figure could be set. The one suggested in this particular instance is 60 per cent, not from the point of view of the strictures of the problem, but by the realities of the finances where the regional government must borrow simply because it cannot levy. Therefore, borrowing even on a temporary basis these days is expensive and adds to the ultimate cost of the levy which is finally made.

Mr. Shore: Mr. Chairman, I rise on the same matter. During the various visits and discussions we've had with some of the municipalities, and particularly having talked to some of the officials of my city, the city of London, they have advised me—and I

think quite accurately—that there are two major reasons why they feel, and I felt the same, that they couldn't be supportive of greater than 50 per cent.

First of all, it would have a tendency to not attend to the matters of the levies as quickly as possible. Second, it's pretty clear and apparent that even if some borrowing is required, at least it spreads the tax load over the total community, as opposed to just one area of the community. I support their advice and comments to me that it would be ill-advised to extend that.

Mr. Swart: Perhaps I can pursue a further question as a result of the reply from the parliamentary assistant. It is simply this: Will he take the initiative with the government to seek the opinions of the municipal associations to see what they would like to have in this regard? It is my understanding that the associations, and perhaps the majority of municipalities, do want permissive legislation over and above the 50 per cent.

I remember when I was in local government, Mr. Chairman, that the same argument was being put forward by some members of council against giving any permission for prelevies, as the argument now being put forward to go from 50 to 75 per cent. I happen to have enough faith in local councils that I think they will deal wisely with just this, and that they won't delay the setting of budgets just because they have permission to go up to something higher than the 50 per cent. I think maybe the 60 per cent may be a nice compromise, but I don't want to see this drop at this time. I would ask the parliamentary assistant if he would seek out views of the municipal associations on this matter.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I have no hesitation whatsoever in giving that undertaking to the hon. member. We shall, as we have always done, seek to consult with the municipalities. I think there is one obvious area on which I might improve and that might be in the timing of the consultation. However, I certainly intend to pursue—

An hon. member: Like you did on Bills 54 and 55.

Mr. Norton: —that course in any matters that affect municipalities. Just as a final comment on my part with respect to the views expressed by the hon. member for Waterloo North, I fail to understand precisely his concern about the collection of moneys on interim levies—I don't want to get into a lengthy debate on this—and the investment of those moneys. Surely any moneys earned through such investments would ultimately go

to a reduction of the tax levied upon the residents of those municipalities. Of course, this is intended to be permissive.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The hon. member for London North has a question on a point of clarification.

Mr. Shore: Did you say London North or Waterloo North?

Mr. Norton: Sorry, I intended to say Waterloo North. I might have—

Mr. Shore: I think I heard London North. I'd just like the record clear.

Mr. Norton: I intended to say Waterloo North in any event. Thank you.

Mr. Ferrier: The member is very sensitive.

Mr. Shore: No, I just want to make sure the right person gets the credit for the—

Mr. Norton: I'm sure the record is now straight.

I think the concern which he has expressed is one that, if you look at the record in terms of the numbers of municipalities which are in fact using a 50 per cent interim levy, there are many who are not and there are many who are not so inclined even though the authority now exists to do that. This is intended to be permissive and hopefully only used under situations of necessity to avoid an excessive burden on municipalities in paying interest rates for interim financing which they might otherwise have to get from financial institutions.

Again, I see that kind of concern as not being totally consistent with the thrust of the arguments that we hear with regard to local autonomy. If, on the one hand, we wish to speak for local autonomy on that kind of principle, because we fear there might be an investment of some of these moneys or a delay perhaps in getting the tax bills out, I don't think we ought then to pull back when we feel that we know better than the local municipality in that particular situation. I think if we believe in local autonomy then we have to believe in it and express confidence in the locally elected members to exercise that very autonomy that we talked about.

Mr. Shore: Why did you put it out then?

Mr. Good: Because the opposition was so great you had to pull it out.

Mr. Haggerty: I want to support the member for Waterloo North in his comments concerning this particular section of the bill and

to concur with the minister's withdrawing this particular section, section 19 of the Metropolitan Toronto Act. I understand it will also be withdrawn from the other regional bills that are coming forward perhaps after this special debate on this bill.

I was interested in some of the comments, particularly as they related to intermittent levies applied by the municipalities throughout the different regions of Niagara. I can recall at one time the county of Welland, which had an exceptionally good county council in those days, used to have a special prepayment of taxes, and a municipality that would pay its levy to the county earlier would get a certain refund back to the municipality. This was well accepted in the community and it encouraged other municipalities to bring in a pre-payment of tax levy in certain localities in the region, and it worked out so successfully that some of the municipalities never had to go to the bank and borrow any money at all. It was to educate the taxpayer at that time that there was a benefit for him. I think if you paid your taxes early in January you would probably get about 2½ per cent savings, and if it went down to March you may end up with one per cent.

The problem is now, since regional government has come into the Niagara region, it's caused some difficulties in local municipalities in preparing their tax structure, their tax levy for that year. I can recall some instances when it went into August, and apparently we have some municipalities now that may be striking their present mill rate of this present budget levy for the taxpayers of the municipality. I can recall at one time that municipalities had to have it completed by March 31 or April 15, and the tax bills were sent out and some of them would indicate that the first payment was due in June and perhaps the last one in October some time, and there was very little difficulty there.

Maybe we should be looking at new ideas and new programmes to expedite eventual subsidies to the municipalities. That is where one of the difficulties is. Sometimes they run almost to the end of the year before they get the subsidy from the province in transitional grants and have to carry quite a load in borrowing money from the bank. Perhaps we should be looking at the Bank Act itself, which is federal.

It is too bad we couldn't put it out to the municipalities that they should be able to tender when they go out and borrow money; maybe there could be a saving there on interest rates alone. Maybe it would be a half per cent or five-eighths per cent, but it

means money and savings to the municipalities. Perhaps we should be looking at the federal anti-combines legislation in this particular field—that there is a combine with the banks under the present Bank Act.

I think we should be looking at something like that to give the benefit to the municipalities when they are out borrowing money. In some smaller municipalities they could go to the credit union and borrow money at a far lower rate than they could from a bank on a short-term basis. There could be benefits given there to the municipalities and to the taxpayers.

I support the member for Waterloo North. I think 75 per cent is too high while 50 per cent was within reason. We've been able to live with it for these number of years and I see no reason for a change at the present time.

Mr. Shore: On a point of clarification, the parliamentary assistant spoke very strongly a moment ago on the concept of permissiveness and the concept of local authority and so on, and he then makes the decision to withdraw it. Could he clarify why he has withdrawn this section, if he feels that strongly on it?

Mr. Norton: I have no problem at all in clarifying that. I should hope it is clear to the member that the decision was made after extensive consultation with municipalities which expressed concern about the operation of these provisions, though not necessarily the principle. In discussing the matter, it was my understanding that the hon. member for Waterloo North was dealing with the principle of allowing more than 50 per cent as opposed to the question of the specific enactment that was before us.

I still think there are times when municipalities would find it very helpful because of circumstances which may cause a delay. Those who were involved in private bills committee heard of at least one example this year. I think there are circumstances under which it may be very helpful. On the one hand, I was discussing with the member the principle, I though while, on the other hand, the decision to withdraw this specific provision was as a result of consultation with municipalities and the receipt of an expression of opinion during the period provided for that from the time that it appeared on the order paper and the time it obtained second reading.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Norton has moved that section 19 of the bill be struck out and that the remaining sections of the bill be renumbered accordingly.

I am going to draw to the attention of the committee that this is a negation of the question usually put by the Chair. We usually say: "Shall this section stand as part of the bill?" I am going to put the question in that wording this time. If you wish to support the amendment you should say "nay."

Shall section 19 stand as part of the bill?

Mr. Good: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, are we not voting on the minister's amendment that section 19 be struck out?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Yes, I would draw the hon. member's attention to the fact that on a technicality the wording had to be that way because of the amendment that Mrs. Campbell moved in the previous section. I just draw to the attention of the committee that for an amendment such as this it is easier for the Chair to put the question, "Shall this section stand as part of the bill?"

Mr. Good: We are not voting on that, Mr. Chairman, with all respect. We are voting on the parliamentary assistant's amendment, are we not? That is what is before the House.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The parliamentary assistant has moved that this section be struck out and not be part of the bill.

Mr. Good: He didn't say that. He just said "and be struck out" period. Why do we not vote on his amendment?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I explained my reasoning. Is it agreed that section 19 be struck out of the bill?

Mr. Good: With all respect, Mrs. Campbell's amendment to a former section has nothing to do with this section.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Perhaps I could go back. Do you wish me to go back and re-read the previous two and explain why I did it? I don't want to get into a technicality right now but this was the Chair's decision and this is the way the question in that case is usually put. I am not going to debate or argue a procedural matter but I would ask the committee to consider my feelings in this matter.

Shall this section stand as part of the bill?

All those in favour will say "aye."

All those against will please say "nay."

The section is struck.

Any further comments or questions or criticisms on any other section of the bill?

Mr. Good: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The way you have decided that section 19 will not be part of the bill, you are

saying that the minister's amendment was out of order and if he didn't want section 19 to be part of the bill he should have voted against that being part of the bill. Is that what you are saying?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I believe that the wording of the minister's amendment was out of order.

Mr. Good: Then why didn't you declare it out of order and tell him to vote against it?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I think I did when we discussed Mrs. Campbell's motion and the ministerial motion at that time.

Sections 20 and 21 agreed to.

On section 22:

Mr. Swart: The purpose of section 22, of course, is to make it easier for a municipality to spend money on industrial promotion and selling the municipality generally. I won't really oppose that—that gives them a free hand—but I would like to point out that there's less and less need from a tax point of view for a municipality to encourage industrial promotion or industries to settle within the municipality.

Part of our planning problem in this province is that the myth still exists in many municipalities that, somehow or other, if they grow very rapidly or if they acquire a lot of industrial assessment their taxes are going to be reduced to their citizens. I want to repeat that that is a myth.

This may encourage them in greater promotion, industrial promotion and other types of promotion. Within that context I have some misgivings about it but I am in favour of the principle that municipalities should have the power to make this decision themselves.

Sections 22 and 23 agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall the bill be reported as amended?

On section 24:

Mr. Swart: I rise on a point of order. I am sorry. It would seem to me that in section 24 there should be a consequential amendment in view of the fact that we deleted section 19. I wonder if the parliamentary assistant wants to move such an amendment?

Mr. Renwick: He doesn't have to do that.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Renwick moved that in subsection 1 of section 24 the reference to section 19 be deleted and that subsection 2 be deleted so that the clause

will read "This Act comes into force from the day it receives royal assent."

Mr. Norton: Thank you, that's precisely the consensus I have.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Renwick: I just want you to know we're alive and well over here.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITIES AMENDMENT ACT

House in committee on Bill 55, an Act to amend the Regional Municipalities Act.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Are there any comments, questions or amendments prior to section 6?

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, if I may, just as a procedural matter in an effort to expedite the passage of this bill through the committee: There are a large number of the sections which are identical and applicable to each of the regional municipalities. I would suggest that as we deal with the sections of the bill we consider, for example when we're dealing with section 1 that we're dealing also with sections 16(2), 32(1), 45, 59, 71, 85, 98(1), 112 and 125, because they are substantially similar matters. Therefore, as we work our way through the amendments dealing with the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, we will, in substance, have dealt with a number of the provisions which I hope would not need to be repeated.

Perhaps when my colleague moves the amendment we've proposed on section 1 the method which I'm speaking about may be clear.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering, too, if I might make a preliminary remark on this with regard to procedure and ask the parliamentary assistant if he is aware that the MLC will be discussing this bill at some length, I understand, on Friday of this week? Is he aware of this; and in view of it does he feel the bill should be stood down until after Friday?

Mr. Norton: I am aware, Mr. Chairman, of the fact that the MLC is proposing to discuss this bill, or certain provisions of it. In spite of the fact there has been that communication, no request for any delay in dealing with this bill in the Legislature has been received by me, or to my knowledge by anyone on our staff.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, if I may then, if we're going into clause by clause discussion, move an amendment to section 1 of the bill.

On section 1:

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Swart moves that the proposed section 7(a) to the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Act, as set out in section 1 of Bill 55, being the Regional Municipalities Amendment Act 1976, be amended by adding after "thereof" in the third line of the proposed section 7(a), the words, "or upon the petition of electors in accordance with the provision of section 13 of the Municipal Act."

Mr. Swart further moves that if the foregoing motion is carried, amending section 1 of Bill 55, section 16 Niagara, section 32 York, section 45 Waterloo, section 59 Sudbury, section 71 Peel, section 85 Halton, section 98 Hamilton-Wentworth, section 112 Durham and section 125 Haldimand-Norfolk be amended accordingly.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether the other members have copies of that or not. I am sure members of the House will know the purpose of this amendment. I would like to think, although I have some doubts, that the fact that it is not in the bill was an omission—an unconscious omission—on the part of the parliamentary assistant or the Treasurer.

Of course, what is being done in the regional Bill 55 is to prevent ratepayers within regional municipalities from having the same rights that ratepayers in local municipalities outside regions have with regard to appealing decisions of council relative to dividing or redividing the municipality into wards.

The section still remains in the Municipal Act whereby a petition by 75 ratepayers within a municipality of 5,000 population or less, or 150 in a municipality of 5,000 or more, may make petition to the local council for division or redivision of the municipality into wards. If they do not act on that, or if they act and turn the request down, then they have the right of appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board and the Ontario Municipal Board shall make the decision.

It seems to me that is a right that should be enshrined in these amendments. I'm not one of those who think we should take away local autonomy from the local municipalities, but this pertains to the structure of municipalities which is the responsibility of the provincial government.

What is more important? In almost every council, when discussion takes place or decisions are being made with regard to dividing that municipality into wards or redividing it, there is a vested interest on the part of the members of council. It is very likely going to affect re-election of those members, or it may well affect it; it will have a bearing on their re-election. Therefore, the decision that may be made may not be based entirely on what is best for the ratepayers of that municipality or those municipalities, but may be based on how it affects the members. Therefore, I think the ratepayers of the municipality should have the right of appeal in regional government.

In fact, it concerns me that Bill 55, as originally tabled, did shift some authority and some jurisdiction from the area of government to the regional government. By this section, you are shifting some authority or some power or some rights which the ratepayers had, away from them to the local council and, in fact, taking it away from them entirely.

[4:15]

So I would hope that the parliamentary assistant might be willing to rise and say that he would agree with this amendment as providing some degree of small—it's not small to people involved and those of us who have been in municipal life know this to be the case, believe me—it will provide some greater degree of democracy and accountability to the ratepayers of this province.

Certainly there is a feeling among voters and among ratepayers that governments are getting bigger and bigger and they have less control. This is one way by which we can assure them they at least will have their case heard by some other level of government than that which has a vested interest in the matter of division of the municipality into wards.

Mr. Stong: I can say that the members of this party will support that motion to amend this Act. Mr. Chairman, you are probably aware that by virtue of the fact we speak third in this House that amendment was usurped from us. However, we will support that amendment although it goes hand in glove with an amendment I will be proposing with respect to section 30, that it be removed from this Act when that section will be discussed. I agree with my friend from Welland that it was probably an oversight—to give the benefit of the doubt—that this was left out; and I question that as well.

Likewise, this amendment may not be needed in the Act with respect to the municipality of York because that right was left with the regional municipality of York. The government, by virtue of section 31, has attempted to remove that right of electors to make a petition and then appeal. I question very strongly the motivation of the government in that respect. I believe it has consciously—a very conscious effort—tried to take away that right of the electorate.

The situation arose in the town of Markham when a petition was made and the power bloc in the council at that time, some four years ago, rendered this situation unavoidable. It must be protected and that right preserved in this Act. This party will be supporting that amendment and it will save us moving the same amendment at this time.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I certainly have no strong objections to the amendment proposed. I think, as has been pointed out, it is something which was already embodied in the Municipal Act for other municipalities not covered by regional legislation.

I would point out, though, at this stage in the discussion that there are some other matters which perhaps do bear on this and ought to be considered. One of them, of course, is that the local government electoral process, I think, ought not to be completely ignored in matters such as this.

I would hope that where a body of opinion existed within a municipality in support of re-examination of the electoral boundaries, if that matter became an issue during the municipal election and if there were sufficient number of people to justify such a change, they could effect that through the electoral process which is as much a part of democracy as the petition.

I'm certainly not saying that we want to deny that right or that opportunity to groups of citizens within regional government. I do think that as we look at such proposals as this over a longer period of time we have to be careful that we don't entirely denude local government and the electoral process at the local level, as a valid and vital expression of the option of the electorate. Petitions are not the only way to express one's opinion and one's concern. One can organize the time of a municipal election much more easily than, say, a provincial or a national election and create local issues by which one can accomplish the same thing, rather than going by way of petition to an administrative board such as the Ontario Municipal Board, which

in effect takes it out of the realm of the political process at the local level.

I appreciate the concern with respect to vested interests, but as I say, I also am concerned that, by such amendments, we not end up, over a long period of time, downgrading the electoral process at the local level as an important and vital expression of the opinion in local municipalities.

Mr. Renwick: I just want to make a comment. The amendment in no way downgrades the electoral process. One of the aspects of democracy, as well as the election proper, is the definition of the boundaries within which that election will take place. This is not a direct challenge by the electors to the Ontario Municipal Board. It is a request by a specified number of electors to the council to ask the council to carry out the division—not necessarily to carry out the division, but to hold the proceedings by which a question can be decided about a division—and if the council doesn't hold it, then the question is that it should go before the Ontario Municipal Board, and that is really the provision of subsection 3 of section 13.

I just didn't want to let go unanswered the comment of the parliamentary assistant that the continued maintenance in regional government of a right that's been existent in the Municipal Act of the Province of Ontario for many years—when it's continued in municipal government, as it will be if this amendment is passed—in some way is a downgrading of the electoral process. In our view, it is just the opposite. It maintains the kind of municipal political process that we have become accustomed to and which we value.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Swart's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the "ayes" have it.

Mr. Renwick: I wasn't smart enough.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall this be stacked?

Agreed.

Mr. Renwick: It is such an interesting matter, maybe we shouldn't stack it.

Mr. Swart: Why would you go against your parliamentary assistant?

Mr. Deans: Why divide yourselves?

On sections 2 to 5 inclusive:

Mr. Swart: I won't dwell on section 2. We support that as a reasonable proposal, the extension of the time. At the present time, in fact, the option of a local municipality to elect a person to fill a vacancy is negated because of the shortness of the time. This will permit that option to the local municipalities and we support that.

I do want once again to register some opposition, although not to the point of dividing, on section 3, etc., where they permit a person who has been employed by or who worked for a municipality to do the auditing for that municipality in a subsequent year. I am conscious of the other side of this matter. Because I spoke on it last evening, I will not dwell on it at any greater length.

Sections 2 to 5, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 6:

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Norton moves that section 6, 20, 36, 50, 75, 89, 102, 116 and 129 will be struck out.

Is it the wish of the committee that we deal collectively with these amendments to these sections?

Agreed.

Mr. Stong: I had this arranged in a little different manner, because I didn't expect that we would be dealing with them all at once. However, I do have an amendment to each one of these sections that the parliamentary assistant is moving.

First, I move that section 6 not be struck out—and this applies, Mr. Chairman, to each of the others; although I have them individually numbered.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Stong moves that section 6 not be struck out, but be amended to read as follows:

That section 61 of the said Act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

Section 61 (1) The regional council has with respect to all land lying within a distance of 150 ft from any limit of a regional road, all the powers conferred on the council of a local municipality by sections 35 of the Planning Act. But prior to exercising any or all of the powers provided by this section affecting land within the regional municipality, the regional council shall give notice of the proposed exercise of such powers to the council of the local municipality wherein the lands affected, that it may therefore exercise such powers with respect to the land in the area by agreement of the council of the local municipality and not otherwise.

(2) No power under section 35 of the Planning Act conferred on the regional council by any section of this Act shall be exercised by that regional council until notice of the proposed exercise of those powers is given to the council of the local municipality wherein the lands affected, and in any event such powers shall be exercised by agreement with the council of the local municipality and not otherwise.

Mr. Stong: Mr. Chairman, this amendment is basically the same as the one in Bill 54, with the addition of a subsection 2. As I have indicated earlier, the support of section 6 and the other sections of a similar vein as proposed in Bill 55, was to remove from the local municipal councils their powers under 35a and 35b of the Planning Act.

Section 35 of the Planning Act had already been removed and placed in the regional council's bailiwick. With the removal, on the amendment of the parliamentary assistant, of these sections from Bill 55, the power under section 35 of the Planning Act remains in the regional council and away from the local municipality.

[4:30]

In my respectful submission to this House, Mr. Chairman, if we believe in local autonomy, as my friend across the floor and my friends to the right have reiterated on many occasions, if we believe in local autonomy, locally elected officials, then they must not talk out of the other side of their mouth. They must preserve some power and some jurisdiction in the local councils. As for Bill 54, the parliamentary assistant indicated that he had not, to his knowledge, received any information from any of the local councils with respect to their wishes, other than deleting sections 35a and 35b, and he directed those remarks to me specifically.

Obviously the parliamentary assistant is unaware of the resolution passed by the town of Vaughan on May 17 which adopts almost word for word my amendment and seeks to preserve the power that it had lost under section 35 and regain that power so that it has some input into planning in the area. That council, at any rate, wants to preserve its power and regain that power so that it has some jurisdiction over its own planning and over the way that planning will take in the region of York. That is the town of Vaughan in the riding of York North, represented by one of the members of the

party in government. The parliamentary assistant was apparently not aware of that pursuant to his remarks earlier.

Mr. Hodgson: You look after Markham and I'll look after Vaughan.

Mr. Stong: Obviously the parliamentary assistant likewise is not aware of the resolution passed by the town of Richmond Hill, which questions the very essence of this proposed amendment in Bill 55. The town of Richmond Hill in its preamble to the resolution indicates that throughout Ontario for many decades local municipalities have existed as creatures of the province. They request that the province indicate to the local municipalities whether it intends to obliterate those municipalities as jurisdictional functions.

This same resolution of the town of Richmond Hill, which passed on May 17 at the same time as the one of the town of Vaughan, also asks the government to recognize the expertise, the sophistication in administration, in fiscal responsibilities, in planning and legislative functions in which the local municipalities have already achieved a high level of competency. The municipalities are requesting that the government recognize those attributes. By virtue of Bill 55, that is the last step in the abolition, in the rendering redundant of the locally elected officials by taking away the last bit of jurisdiction, the last bit of planning and power to zone that has been in their bailiwick.

This same resolution of the town of Richmond Hill, passed on May 17, asks that the government and the Province of Ontario indicate whether Ontario intends to move to a single-tier government and abolish the local government. It asks that there be some direction and that the government make some commitment.

The parliamentary assistant may well not be aware of these resolutions. The parliamentary assistant may well not be aware of the resolution passed by the town of Vaughan, but that's not to say they weren't done. They were passed on May 17. The municipalities are concerned about the loss of jurisdiction, they are concerned over their own destiny and, most of all, they are concerned about being rendered redundant by the usurping of all their power by Bill 55, the last straw, sections 35a and 35b.

In order to preserve local autonomy, in order to keep some semblance of power and control over their own destiny, it is important that the locally elected officials are

recognized by this government. They must be in charge of their own destiny, as it says in this resolution. They have achieved a high level of competence in planning; they've been at it for years, for many more years than regional government. They know the area. They know the people. They know what's needed. They know what's not needed. All they are asking is that they have some legitimate input, some authority.

My amendment to the amendment being moved by the parliamentary assistant is simply that the regional government exercise its powers under section 35 of the Planning Act but not to eliminate the municipal government; that they act in concert, by agreement.

There are such agreements in effect. There is an agreement in effect between the regional municipality of York and the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. It's already an agreement. These two bodies have come to one mind in this agreement with respect to powers over the boundaries along Steeles Ave. If those two functioning legislative bodies can come to one mind and one agreement, there is absolutely no reason that regional governments and the local governments cannot do the same. They already have a precedent set and it has been in existence since April 8, 1974.

All my amendment does is require two responsible bodies to co-operate and be of one mind in planning and not give all the power to one body to the detriment and the prejudice of the other, particularly that body which knows the area better and can function better in that area. I ask my friends on the right who have indicated their support of local autonomy—they stood in this House on Tuesday last when we were discussing this bill for the first time and they indicated their support of local autonomy. That is all this amendment does—it recognizes the preservation of that local autonomy.

Subsection 2 of my amendment also covers the waterfront, so to speak. There are sections in each of these regional municipal Acts which, by inference, confer power under section 35 of the Planning Act and, by inference, the region has that power. This section indicates that no power under section 35 of the Planning Act can be exercised by the region without co-operation from and agreement with the local municipally-elected officials.

That is the essence of this amendment. It's to preserve the autonomy which you indicate you want to preserve, which you

stand up and say you represent. That's exactly what this amendment does. If your heart is where your words are, you'll accept this amendment.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I find this particular amendment and the arguments placed before us in support of it just as incredible as the arguments in support of the similar amendment proposed by the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell) during the debate on the Metropolitan Toronto Act.

The hon. member has indicated that he had several resolutions all of which, I believe, I have seen and I have most of them before me. In one of those and only one of those, to my knowledge—I have one from Vaughan—in the one from Richmond Hill there is some specific reference to section 35. To lump them all together and to imply that you have a series of resolutions—unless you have different resolutions from the ones I have received from these municipalities—I think verges upon misleading the House. I'm not suggesting that was your intent—

Mr. Nixon: That's good because you wouldn't be permitted to.

Mr. Norton: —but those resolutions don't all say the same thing unless you have different ones from the ones I've received.

Mr. Stong: I should hope not. Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. If the member had listened to what I said, I indicated I had a resolution from the town of Vaughan passed on May 17 and a resolution from the town of Richmond Hill passed on May 17. I referred to those resolutions and only those two resolutions. I'm not trying to mislead this House. I'm trying to convince this House that this amendment is necessary and that's all.

You indicated in Bill 54 that you were not aware of anyone recommending that these two bodies operate by agreement. That is misleading the House particularly in view of the reference you have made now.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. I would ask the hon. member to withdraw his implication that the parliamentary assistant was misleading the House.

Mr. Stong: All right, Mr. Chairman. I'll say that there seems to be contradictory verbiage emanating from the parliamentary assistant with respect to this.

Mr. Hodgson: You are switching horses—two of them—in midstream.

Mr. Nixon: Very well put.

Mr. Norton: I would like to point out to the hon. member that Bill 54 deals with Metropolitan Toronto. I'm not sure whether the hon. member is aware of that.

Mr. Shore: He is.

Mr. Norton: Bill 55 deals with the regional municipalities throughout the province. In my comments on Bill 54 I said specifically that I had met with the chairman of Metropolitan Toronto and the mayors of the boroughs or their representatives and that at no time had that been raised. That is the truth as I said it and it still is the truth. Don't try to twist my words.

Interjection.

Mr. Shore: Put up your right hand.

Mr. Norton: We're talking about another bill now. With respect to the proposed amendment, I think again it makes mockery of what has been said by the hon. member and his caucus with respect to consultation. We have consulted with the municipalities; we have seen their resolutions and we have talked with them. I have talked with them on the telephone, I have met with representatives personally and we are responding to their input.

Here at the eleventh hour, after shouting about consultation, to stand up and decide on the basis of one or maybe two resolutions—

Mr. Good: I'll give you six more.

Mr. Norton: —that you are going to change the legislation governing regional municipalities across the whole of this province without any more consultation than that, without any more forethought than that, I think verges on being irresponsible.

Mr. Nixon: That's right.

Mr. Drea: You would do that kind of thing.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Norton: At least we consulted for six weeks.

Mr. Good: We've been consulting for four years.

Mr. Norton: I would like to see the evidence of your consultation.

Mr. Ruston: You haven't been around very long, I can see that.

Mr. Norton: We are responding to what was produced by consultation. I think this particular amendment is lacking in foresight in that I think that you ought at least—

Mr. Shore: All new boys around here.

Mr. Norton: —to have consulted all of the other regional municipalities across the province that you propose to affect by the amendment that you propose. It may be true of the town of Richmond Hill and perhaps even Vaughan, although the indication I have from my information here is that Vaughan didn't specifically require it.

I'm just now advised from the copy the staff have that Vaughan did, so I correct that. So it's Vaughan and Richmond Hill.

Mr. Nixon: I am glad there is somebody down there behind you. Have you got the Treasurer down there behind you?

Mr. Ruston: I don't see anybody. Where is he, under your desk?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. The parliamentary assistant has the floor.

Mr. Norton: I'll introduce you to my Charlie McCarthy one of these days if you keep that up.

Mr. Shore: Is the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) back there?

Mr. Nixon: Introduce us to your Edgar Bergen.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please, will the hon. parliamentary assistant return to sensible discussion?

Mr. Norton: My Charlie McCarthy is very charming.

Mr. Deans: Trouble is you are the Charlie McCarthy.

Mr. Nixon: To let them have a vote.

Mr. Hodgson: You would let them have a lot of votes.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, without further comment at this point, I would simply say I think that this is an ill-conceived amendment to be proposed at this time without further consultation with the municipalities affected.

Mr. Swart: I expressed the views of my party on the principle of this bill when we were discussing the Metropolitan Toronto bill and I don't intend to repeat all of that.

I just want to say that although this amendment is, I believe, an improvement on what was originally in the bill, I don't think that it goes far enough. In fact, what it does is complicate the situation whereby you have two levels of government dealing with the same issue. As I said before, if there was one thing that we need in this province, it is clear lines of authority where people will know which level of government to approach and that level of government does have decision-making powers. Therefore, we will not be supporting the amendment.

[4:45]

The prime reason for not supporting the amendment and not supporting the clauses in the bill is that discussion did not take place on either one of them. I am rather amused, as a matter of fact, by the discussion in this House in which there is an argument going on between the Conservative parliamentary assistant and the spokesman for the Liberal Party. The Liberal Party says it did consult with two or three municipalities and the parliamentary assistant says the government did discuss it also with municipalities. Of course, the government discusses it with municipalities after it developed the bill. It didn't have discussion ahead of time and I think that perhaps points out the difference—they would discuss it with a few, you don't discuss it with any. This party believes we should discuss it with the municipal associations before we make our decision.

Mr. Nixon: That is it; are you going to support the amendment?

Mr. Swart: No, we are not going to support the amendment because you haven't consulted with the municipal associations on your amendment either.

Mr. Nixon: You are not in favour of autonomy, that is clear.

Mr. Swart: If this is withdrawn at the present time, the PMLC is meeting on Friday night and can discuss this bill. I think that is an indication of the way the government proceeds—we have a bill here on Tuesday and the municipal committee is going to discuss it on Friday after we have dealt with it. It's an indication of the type of consultation the government has had with the municipalities.

Mr. Ruston: That's called consultation after the fact.

Mr. Swart: At least if these important sections are withdrawn, it will enable the govern-

ment and perhaps the opposition parties to find out from the municipal associations and the PMLC, which represents all the municipal associations in this province, what they really want. Personally, I favour some legislation which perhaps more assuredly would give the authority to the local level of government.

For those reasons—because I believe there should be consultation ahead of the fact and not after the fact—my party and I are going to support the withdrawal of this section.

Mr. Good: It is certainly evident who is in favour of one-tier regional government and one-tier regional planning and who would have no intention of trying to resolve the problems which now exist in the two-tier planning systems which now exist in many of our regional governments. Ninety per cent of the problems in regional governments today are because of differences of opinion between the regional government and the local area municipalities.

Mr. Swart: They are overlapping.

Mr. Good: In no area is it more evident than in the planning process.

Interjections.

Mr. Good: I will say this, with all credit to the minister, I am sure if he were to consult any regional chairman, any regional head planner or any regional subordinate planner, they would all agree with the original amendment which is now being withdrawn because of other opposition. It would have been a planners' field day, it would have been a regional chairmen's field day, to take over all regional governments in a one-tiered proposition. Even though on paper it still would have remained a two-tiered structure, it would have ended up as nothing more than a one-tier proposition. As it is now, the area governments are fighting for their lives, not to be overwhelmed by the onslaughts of the regional governments.

All right, you say we haven't consulted them. I've consulted every area government which sent us letters on the bill—the other sections dealing with 35a and 35b. I find that the mayor of Oshawa, Mr. Potticary, is very much enamoured of our proposed amendment. He said "That would be great. It would give the area government a little say again about what is going on in the regional governments."

Mr. Nixon: That is Oshawa. Where is the member?

Mr. Ruston: Where is the member?

Mr. Good: I spoke to the mayor of Waterloo. I spoke to the treasurer of Waterloo and the clerk of the city of Waterloo. They told me, "If the government has brought this section before the Legislature to add to the regional powers but is now going to take away the regional powers and give us a vehicle to establish a little autonomy in the area government level—by bringing these before the Legislature—by all means try for that amendment." It will bring some results back to the regional government where there will be some co-operation and some agreement between the area government and the regional government.

In all fairness, I must say that the regional government in my own area is working on a verbal agreement with the area government that they will show interest along their road right of way under section 35, as it pertains to road widening and curb cuts for access and getting out and into a property. That is a verbal agreement. But there is nothing to prevent the regional government in future from taking over site development, building approvals and everything else that they want to along their streets. And you know what happens with 150 ft on each side for regional roads, it cuts the guts right out of the downtown areas of most of your area governments. So, in fact, the planning in those area governments is left entirely to the region—and right in the downtown; in the most important parts of those municipalities.

In the city of Kitchener, where two regional roads flank the main street, the properties along those two regional roads project 150 ft and they take in the back of the properties that are on the central part of King St. In fact, the whole mall section that's being designed by the city of Kitchener will come under regional government authority by the powers given under this section in our regional bill.

I spoke to the administrative officials in three of the Hamilton regional government areas, and they did admit: "We have no problems here at the moment, but certainly it would be great to include some protection for the future wherein the area government would have a say in the agreement that is drawn up between the region and the area government."

In Grimsby, in the Niagara regional government, I spoke to one official who again thought it would be an excellent idea to give the area governments a little say in what is going on at the regional level. We all know that unless we retain some powers in

the area government level, we're going to end up with a one-tier system. The area governments won't even be hewers of wood and drawers of water, they'll be just fillers of potholes and builders of curbs. That's about all there is going to be left for them to do.

Now, I would ask the members of the NDP to reconsider their proposition. This is no idle shot in the dark. We've talked to people. Those of you who live in regions know that most of the problems that occur in the regional governments are differences of opinion between the region and the area government. The area governments feel that they are being downtrodden by the region. There is nothing left for them to do. Their planning has been taken over, even though there is two-tier planning in most of them, because of sections such as this.

I sincerely believe that this could be a step in a new direction to get regional government back on the track and to diminish the unilateral powers held by the regions over the people in the area governments.

People will admit without reservation that they feel much closer to their area government level than they do to their regional government level. It is at the area government where the people have confidence in that government. I feel that you're going to have to take a real hard look somewhere down the line. This party is prepared to take action right now to strip some of the powers that have been causing most of the problems in our regional governments.

Mr. Stong: I will restrict my remarks. The parliamentary assistant called my recommended amendment irresponsible. I ask him how responsible the government was in imposing regional government on many areas. Where does the responsibility lie in that Act? Why, over the last four years, have the local municipalities been responding to suggestions for changes? My friend, the member for Waterloo North, has indicated to this House and to the parliamentary assistant that there has been action and consultation taken. I have relied on two written resolutions and have brought them forward. With respect to my friends on the right, they say one thing—but they are acting like political ostriches, with their head in the sand on this one. I ask that they reconsider their position and vote for this amendment.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I have very little to add to my earlier comments except perhaps just a very brief response to the hon. member for York Centre. I would ask

that he recall, if he can recall that far back, the times when the county of York requested that the government restructuring that has taken place there take place. That was done in response to a request from the local level.

In talking about imposition and whether it is responsible or not, I think all he has to do is look at the experiences of some of the municipalities of comparable size to those in Ontario that are part now of restructured governments—look to the south; look to the American jurisdictions and see what is happening, and the problems that some of those municipalities are facing.

Mr. Good: Why didn't you push regional government in Kingston?

Mr. Norton: Look at the fact that in the Province of Ontario, comparable municipalities have not yet faced those problems. Look at the fact that in those cities to the south, most of them would have avoided the problems they are facing had they undergone, at the appropriate time, local government restructuring as we have done in the Province of Ontario.

Mr. Good: Why aren't you pushing regional government in Kingston?

Mr. Nixon: What are you doing in Kingston?

Mr. Norton: Let's not talk about the irresponsibility of the introduction of restructuring of local government.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: You haven't had it in Chatham. You shove it down other people's throats.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. Perhaps we can have the debate returned to the section that we're discussing rather than the principles of regional government.

Mr. Shore: Mr. Chairman, I don't think the parliamentary assistant should be allowed to get away with the concept that there isn't some good in regional government, nor should he be able to make a generalized statement that it's the greatest thing. What we're saying here in this concept and in this amendment is very clear—that is, to allow the local authorities to have some say in it. That's the issue, and he shouldn't be allowed to get away with a concluding statement that the regional government concept is no good or is good.

Mr. Norton: You're speaking with the same voice as the hon. member for York Centre.

Mr. Shore: The specific situation here is clear—to allow the local authorities to have input into the decision-making and not be treated like some child. That's the issue and he should not be left to forget about it.

Mr. Bullbrook: Resign. Resign.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, I'm delighted to hear my colleagues in the Liberal Party try to scramble back on with some interest in this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Shore: No scrambling here.

Mr. Nixon: It will be interesting to hear how you save an untenable position.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: Once the New Democratic Party had taken upon itself to get in touch with all of the regional governments, we then began to hear that the Liberals were also catching on and that they were getting in touch with the regional governments. That's right.

Mr. Nixon: You voted in favour of regional government bills until you changed your mind.

Mr. Renwick: When the whole principle of whether or not the government had consulted or not consulted was put to the assembly, of course the Liberal Party stood with the Tory party. Some time the Liberal Party's going to learn it's not who you stand with, it's what you stand for that counts.

Mr. Shore: The member has to be a historian now.

Mr. Renwick: Now, under the clause through which we in this caucus played a significant part, along with the deliberations of the parliamentary assistant, to force the withdrawal of this section, my friends in the Liberal Party want, in their own good grace, after having touched peripherally upon certain of the municipalities—

Mr. Roy: You don't really mean that, do you?

Mr. Renwick: —they now want to amend it throughout the whole of regional government without any participation by anybody but themselves in the process. We don't share that view. We have a very simple view and that is government, to make regional government work in this province, must consult. This government knows it didn't consult; that's why it's withdrawn these clauses.

But to suggest now that some marginal amendment will allow the Liberal Party to scramble back into an interest in this particular field is more than we can stomach.

Mr. Shore: No, no. You can regurgitate your words now.

Mr. Renwick: On that particular ground, we will not, despite the great respect we have for the member for Waterloo North when he speaks knowledgeably, on occasion but not on this occasion, about municipal matters. We would support it, but we can't support it knowing the background of the cabal that's gone on within the Liberal Party—

Mr. Shore: You can't support him because you are sucking and blowing at the same time.

Mr. Renwick: —to come up with some kind of a position on regional government. Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect, the Liberal Party never has had a position on regional government. They don't really believe in it.

Mr. Shore: Where's your Masters and Johnson?

Mr. Renwick: They never at any time during the course of the debates believed in it. Their consultation doesn't mean creative consultation. It's always destructive. This amendment is a destructive amendment of the process of consultation to which we are committed.

[5:00]

Mr. Drea: You are right.

Mr. Good: There goes your member for Cambridge (Mr. Davidson) down the drain.

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, forgive me for having digressed from this particular section. I just wanted to say that we are unalterably opposed to the liberal amendment and we are in favour of the motion, because we created the situation which led to the government withdrawing this particular section.

Mr. Nixon: I want to support the amendment that has been put forward by my colleague, particularly since the member for Riverdale is taking such a strange position in this regard. He has often been called upon

to save his party from an untenable position but never has he reached so far as he has this afternoon in his failing effort so to do.

Mr. Shore: Look at him. He's laughing about it.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, you have been in the House for many years and you know that we have consistently opposed the government's position which would impose regional government in the various areas of the province. Without returning to the principle of those many bills now that have been before the Legislature, our position in each case, consistently and without fail, was that the power should remain with the smaller units rather than centralize, either here at Queen's Park or with the monolithic regional government operated by a chairman appointed by the Conservative government.

Actually we were successful in convincing the NDP of the error in their ways. Half-way through the regionalization process in this province, they changed their position so that they would oppose regional government in general. I'll tell you, Mr. Chairman, that one of the basic concerns that we have is that the policies of the Conservative Party have not just been to regionalize but to centralize the power in one-tier government. That is why this amendment is so important because it strikes directly against the principle of centralizing power in one-tier government which has shown to be expensive and in many respects undemocratic since the leader of that one-tier government in most instances is appointed here from Queen's Park.

The amendment put forward by my colleague emphasizes and, as a matter of fact, demands that some of these powers at least be shared in a real and extensive way with the lower tier. The fact that the NDP now finds it impossible to shift away from its hereditary support of the Conservative position in regional government is simply a further indication of its weakness in this field.

Mr. Moffatt: It won't work.

Mr. Nixon: Here is a real opportunity for the opposition parties to join together in a rational, well-considered amendment which would change the whole concept of regional government, putting power back where it should be with the people who pay the taxes and who must be served in local governments.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: The NDP, with their haloes shining around their heads, talk about consultations.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: This has been a matter of consistent principle with our party ever since the regional business was introduced by the present Treasurer.

Mr. Moffatt: What's the principle?

Mr. Nixon: There's no way we're going to be able to convince the stubborn NDP to back down from this particular position that they've got into, but I would hope that there would be some reconsideration. This amendment should pass. It is for the benefit of the people.

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. Could we have a little less noise in the committee. We'll recognize the hon. parliamentary assistant.

Mr. Norton: I won't engage in the debate that has taken place across the House on the merits of regional government. I would like the opportunity to do so with the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. I have not had that privilege. In view of some of his comments about the concentration of powers in a one-tier government, I think that a little debate on that subject might be very enlightening at some future date.

Mr. Nixon: When you introduce regional government for Kingston and the Islands, then we will debate it.

Mr. Norton: With respect to the comments of the hon. member for Riverdale that the decision to withdraw the section was not arrived at as a result of consultation, I would point out to him that I acknowledge that his party engaged in consultation—

Mr. Nixon: You knew it; that's why you withdrew it.

Mr. Norton: —following the presentation of the bill in the House for first reading. I accept his word that shortly thereafter the Liberals began to pursue him around the province in making an effort to emulate the efforts of the official opposition. I would also point out that prior to the introduction of that bill to this House for first reading, I met with the PMLC and discussed with its members the principles involved in this legislation. I said that when the legislation was

introduced, we would withhold further action on it until we had heard from them. As a result of that, there was a six-week period during which there was very extensive consultation on our part, without great fanfare.

Mr. Davidson: Rather strange none of them knew about it.

Interjections.

Mr. Moffatt: With whom did you consult?

Mr. Norton: As a consequence, we did not have—we weren't chasing anybody around the Province of Ontario but we were listening—

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Norton: —with sensitive and responsive ears to the people at the municipal level throughout the Province of Ontario. As a result, we arrived at the conclusion—

Mr. Swart: You found out you made a mistake.

Mr. Norton: —that certain amendments which we are now proposing were desirable to this legislation.

Mr. Moffatt: They told you to get lost.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: There are two questions before the House at the present time. There's a motion by Mr. Stong that section 6 not be struck out but be amended to read as follows—I hope I have the support of the House not to read the amendment? Is it your wish that we take it as previously read? Then we have the amendment moved by Mr. Norton that various sections be struck out.

Is it the pleasure of the committee that we deal with Mr. Stong's motions collectively?

Mr. Deans: Dispense collectively.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Stong moves that sections 6, 20, 36, 50, 75, 89, 102, 116 and 129 not be struck out but be amended as follows—I shall not read the amendment in its entirety.

All those in favour of Mr. Stong's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the "nays" have it.

Shall this vote be stacked?

It is stacked then.

I can't deal with the second amendment or the other questions concerning these sections until the first one is dealt with.

Are there any further discussions on any other sections of the bill prior to section 9? The ministry has an amendment to section 9.

Mr. Bullbrook: Are you stacking the votes automatically?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Yes, it was agreed on a previous division. Any further discussion prior to section 9? The hon. parliamentary assistant has an amendment to section 9.

Sections 7 and 8 agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Norton moves that sections 9, 23, 37, 51, 63, 76, 90, 103, 117 and 130 of the bill be struck out.

Mr. Swart: I won't take the time of the House to repeat the arguments put forth on the Metro Toronto bill dealing with fundamentally the same thing but for purposes of the record I want to ask the parliamentary assistant if he will seek out the advice of the municipal associations and if they recommend to him that some form of this section be reintroduced, he will do so.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, as I did earlier, I will certainly undertake that we will examine this question further and will consult with municipalities as to a formula which might be acceptable to them which could be included at some subsequent date in further amendments to this legislation.

Mr. Good: In reply to that cross-conversation, I would like to say I hope the parliamentary assistant will consult with the taxpayers whose tax would be accelerated beyond what it is now by any change in the 50 per cent interim levy required. Surely he must agree that half a year's taxes is really to the end of June; they can be levied now and that is ample time for a municipality to set its mill rate. We in this party couldn't imagine any conceivable reason why you would want to extend that anywhere beyond 50 per cent.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall sections 9, 23, 37, 51, 63, 76, 90, 103, 117 and 130 stand as part of the bill?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

I declare that the "nays" have it. The sections will be struck out.

Any other comments, criticisms or amendments prior to section 108? The hon. member from York Centre.

Mr. Stong: Mr. Chairman, I have with respect to section 31.

On section 31:

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Stong moves that section 31 of Bill 55 be struck out.

Mr. Stong: The power under section 31 has been alluded to by the member for Welland-Thorold with respect to his proposed amendment to an earlier section.

The regional municipality of York was the only region which retained the power under section 13 of the Municipal Act which granted to 75 petitioners the right to petition a council for a ward or a boundary change in the event that the council did not act. Markham is an example of where a petition was necessary. Despite what the parliamentary assistant indicated earlier, the normal channel of the electorate did not work in that situation and the petitioners acted under section 13 of the Municipal Act.

With respect to this particular section, I have moved that section 31 be struck out to retain under subsection 3 of section 3 of the Regional Municipality of York Act the right in the electorate to make that petition, first, to the council, and then to the Municipal Board by way of appeal in the event that the council does not do anything on that petition.

Without going any further into it, the member for Welland-Thorold covered quite adequately the rights in the electorate to make this petition under section 13 of the Municipal Act. The government by section 31 of Bill 55 has intended to eliminate that statutory right under that section. That is why I have made the amendment that I did and the motion that I did on this section.

Mr. Swart: I am obviously in total agreement with what the member for York Centre says, although I come perhaps to a different conclusion.

It seems to me that by the original amendment which was supported by your party and by this party we have inserted that clause in section 32, so you have that provision or will have it when the vote is taken in section 32. It would be a duplication; you will have it in the Act twice. I humbly suggest that we can take this out and you will still have the provisions of section 13 in the Act because it already has been approved for

section 32, and it will be certainly a lot cleaner and less complicated.

[5:15]

Mr. Stong: I had considered that position and I agree that the amendment made to section 32 makes it clear. But section 31 refers to subsection 3 of section 3 of the Regional Municipality of York Act as amended by section 2 of chapter 78 of the Statutes of Ontario, 1972. Section 2 of an Act to amend the Regional Municipality of York Act, chapter 78 of 1972, refers to the years 1973 and 1974. The government has moved to delete this verbiage from that section and just so that there is no confusion in that particular amendment of 1972, it may be advisable to leave it in and delete section 31 from the Act, which could be construed as a repetition. On the other hand there is no problem at all with chapter 78, 1972, and that's why I have moved my amendment.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I have no difficulty whatsoever in accepting the principle involved, although it looks to me as if we might end up with two sections in the Act saying the same thing with respect to the region of York. I don't know if that's likely to create any difficulty. I am prepared to accept that amendment.

Mr. Shore: The NDP may not like it.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall section 31 stand as part of the bill?

All those in favour will please say "aye."
All those opposed will please say "nay."

Mr. Good: I think there was some misunderstanding.

Mr. Stong: There is some misunderstanding, I believe, arising out of your question.

Mr. Norton: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. Would the chairman put the question again? There is an amendment before us and I didn't hear the question correctly perhaps.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I will place the question again. Mr. Stong moves an amendment to section 31, that section 31 be struck.

All those in favour of section 31 standing as part of the bill will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "nays" have it.

Section 31 is struck from the bill.

Mr. Deans: You should ask your colleagues to give you a hand over there.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Is there any further discussion to any other section prior to 108?

On section 108:

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Norton moves that subsection 1 of section 115 of the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth Act, 1973, as set out in section 108 of the bill, be amended by inserting after "nine" in the fourth line, "10, 11 and 12."

Mr. Norton: It might be of some assistance at the outset to indicate that that is a result of a typographical error. It's not even a housekeeping amendment, I guess; it is an attempt to correct an omission made prior to this time.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Is there any further discussion on Mr. Norton's amendment? Shall the amendment carry?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Are there any further discussions, questions or amendments to any other section of the bill?

Mr. Good: Mr. Chairman, what was the section that was just amended? I will have to get my point at one of the later sections of the bill. What was the section we just completed?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The section we just completed was 108.

Mr. Good: Could you hold on just for a minute? I think I can deal with this matter under section 109, Mr. Chairman. No, I am sorry, I can't.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Which section did the hon. member wish to speak to—109?

Mr. Good: It was a prior section, Mr. Chairman, and I am trying to relate it to one of the later sections which would be comparable. I would like to speak to the section regarding the additional granting powers which are extended to the regional municipalities. I think that could be under 122, 123, 124—any of the later sections. I have a question that has to do, Mr. Chairman, with the granting of the powers of section 248(a) of the Municipal Act to the regional municipalities.

As I interpret the section, granting powers conferred on local municipalities will now be given to the regional corporations. I want to ask the parliamentary assistant something that relates to some of the later sections we haven't covered. As he may know, in certain regional governments the acquisition and collection of industrial land is not a regional power. In the

region of Waterloo, for instance, the bill was so designed that the acquisition of industrial land is an area government authority, and there's no power to buy or assemble industrial land in the region.

Now, my understanding is that the region is interpreting this section, whereby they have the power to make loans and to act as the guarantor for loans, as being power to give loans to area governments to assemble industrial land on behalf of the region. In other words, if the region wants to get into the assembly of industrial land, they can do it by giving the money to the area governments in the form of a grant to assemble industrial land on their behalf.

Now, this is the way it is being construed in some regions, as giving the regions power to assemble and buy industrial land which they do not have in the bill. Could the parliamentary assistant discuss this matter with some of his officials and give me an answer whether, indeed, that is an interpretation of this section which would give the regions that particular power?

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I see nothing in the Act that would preclude the region from making a grant or exercising any of the powers set out with respect to an area municipality for that purpose, or perhaps any other legitimate purpose. However, I do not see how the regional municipality could hold land for that purpose if it does not have the power to do so. Unless the property were to be assembled by the area municipality and the power to develop for the purposes of industrial development were exercised by the area municipality, I don't see how it could effect its goals—if I understood you correctly when you said that the regional municipality could have it done for its purposes.

I don't think that the regional municipality would end up holding, administering and exercising control over the land if it doesn't have the authority to do that. But it could well make a grant or loan or guarantee a loan for that purpose to an area municipality, I think. That certainly would be my interpretation, and that's confirmed by the advice of our counsel.

Mr. Good: Mr. Chairman, that partly answers the question. I think there is some apprehension on the part of area governments, not only with the assembling of industrial land but also the assembling of parks and recreational land for which in many bills there is no authority for the regions to do. It is the lower tiers' authority.

By this provision I understand regions are now saying, "Although we have no authority to get into the industrial land area or into parks and recreation, we are going to have the authority to make grants." And so they can really direct planning and the whole matter of industrial land within the regions, and also the whole matter of parks and recreation can be taken over by the regions through the granting powers which are established.

I personally don't think that is the intention of this section, but I have already heard rumblings where regions are interpreting it in that manner so that they can indeed get into these extra functions which, by the very nature of the original bill, are local-level functions. Once again we see the regions trying to muscle their way into all the authority within the region.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I see nothing to preclude the region from granting or lending or guaranteeing a loan of money for any purpose that it believes or deems to be in the interests of the people of the region. If, after this comes into effect, there is some indication of abuse of this particular section of this authority, then it would be something that may well bear close watching on the part of the area municipalities that are not benefiting directly from the loan, and also from the point of view of the province. But at the same time I don't think that if the regional government wishes to make a grant in a way that it believes is in the best interests of all the people in the region, there is anything here to preclude it from doing so.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Swart moves that subsection 3 of section 138 be deleted.

Mr. Swart: It's no longer applicable. Speaking to that motion, those sections were withdrawn from the bill.

Mr. Norton: Yes, I certainly accept that.

Motion agreed to.

The committee divided on Mr. Swart's amendment, which was approved on the following vote:

Clerk of the House: Mr. Chairman, the "ayes" are 95, the "nays" are zero.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I declare the amendment carried.

[6:00]

The committee divided on Mr. Stong's amendment, which was negatived on the following vote:

Clerk of the House: Mr. Chairman, the "ayes" are 33, the "nays" are 63.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I declare the motion lost.

The next question before the committee is a motion by Mr. Norton that sections 6, 20, 36, 50, 75, 89, 102, 116 and 129 of the bill be struck out.

Shall these sections form a part of the bill?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

The "nays" have it.

The sections will be struck from the bill.

Shall the bill be reported as amended?

Bill 55, as amended, reported.

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed: Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of the whole House begs to report one bill without amendment and two bills with certain amendments and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

JUDICIAL REVIEW PROCEDURE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved second reading of Bill 84, An Act to amend the Judicial Review Procedure Act.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

The following bill was given third reading upon motion: Bill 84, An Act to amend the Judicial Review Procedure Act.

The House recessed at 6:05 p.m.

APPENDIX
(See page 3100)

27. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry: Would the Minister of Industry and Tourism advise what are the outstanding balances on the NODC loans given to the Thunder Bay area ski facilities: (Mt. Mackay, Loch Lomand, Little Norway, Candy Mountain and Mt. Baldy)? What were the original balances plus the agreed-upon amounts to be paid each year, length of the term and the amount that has been paid each year since the loans were taken out?

Answer by the Minister of Industry and Tourism:

NODC has authorized loans to the Thunder Bay area ski facilities as follows:

	Type	Original balances authorized	Principal outstanding at April 30, 1976	Length of term
1. Mount McKay (Ojibway Resorts Ltd.)	Performance	\$165,000	\$148,268.70	6 years
2. Loch Lomand Ski Area Ltd.	Performance	234,850	187,880.00	6 years
	O B I P	67,500	43,400.00	15 years with interest at 8% commencing Dec. 15, 1980
	Tourist	7,500	7,368.95	15 years with interest at 6% commencing Dec. 15, 1975
		<u>309,850</u>	<u>238,648.95</u>	
3. Little Norway Ski Resorts	Performance	135,000	121,500.00	6 years
	Tourist	135,000	135,000.00	10 years with interest at 8% commencing June 15, 1973
		<u>270,000</u>	<u>256,500.00</u>	
4. Candy Mountain Resorts	Performance	71,170	49,819.00	6 years
	O B I P	217,800	216,793.00	15 years with interest at 8% commencing Nov. 15, 1980
	Tourist	24,200	23,605.10	15 years with interest at 6% commencing Nov. 15, 1975
		<u>313,170</u>	<u>290,217.10</u>	
5. Mount Baldy Ski Area Ltd.	Performance	60,500	42,350.00	6 years

Note: No information is supplied with respect to agreed-upon amounts to be paid each year and the amount that has been paid each year since the loans were taken out. This has always been considered to be confidential information between a lender and borrower.

63. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry: Would the Minister of Industry and Tourism please table his definition of recreation and leisure and its perimeters?

Answer by the Minister of Industry and Tourism:

This question was answered by the Minister of Culture and Recreation—question 64. This ministry concurs with that answer.

82. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry: Would the Minister of Transportation and Communications table the names of the present lease holders of Ontario Northland Transportation Commission franchises for the operation of norOntair, and would the minister also list the name of each and every shareholder in those companies holding leases, and should there be any firms that formerly held franchises would the minister provide the same information for them as well?

Answer by the Minister of Transportation and Communications:

The names of the present lease holders of Ontario Northland Transportation Commission franchises for the operation of norOntair are as follows: Bradley Air Services Ltd.; Austin

Airways Ltd. (owned by White River Air Service), Airdale Ltd., and On-Air Ltd.

The name of each and every shareholder in these limited companies is not available.

Information about the shareholders in these companies would have to be obtained through the company books because they are all private limited companies.

White River Air Service formerly held a franchise.

98. Mr. Cassidy—Inquiry of the ministry: How many lotteries have been held for houses under the HOME plan under the auspices of the Ministry of Housing or the Ontario Housing Corp.? For each such lottery, where were the houses located, what was their price range, how many houses were available, and how many individuals submitted their names in the lottery?

Answer by the Minister of Housing:

To date, 13 lotteries have been held to distribute HOME plan houses in seven municipalities under the auspices of Ontario Housing Corp.

The attached table lists dates and locations of the lotteries, number of units, number of applications and the price ranges of the houses. It should be noted that the prices exclude land in all cases. Only 85 applications were received for the Jan. 26, 1976, lottery in Hamilton which offered 130 townhouse condominium units for sale. Those condominium units remaining unsold after the 85 applications have been processed, will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

Locations	Units available	Number of applications	Minimum and maximum house selling price	Date of lottery
Brampton:				
Central Park	675	4,392	\$20,495-\$22,495	July 26/74
Hamilton:				
Berrisfield-				
Quinndale	130	85	\$26,325-\$29,750	Jan. 26/76
Lawfield	654	2,674	\$18,400-\$22,000	Nov. 20/74
London:				
Fairmont Park	39	439	\$18,695-\$19,695	Oct. 2/74
Metro Toronto:				
Malvern Ph. II	274	9,278	\$16,150-\$21,300	Oct. 19/73
Malvern Ph. III	446	9,667	\$20,250-\$26,400	Jan. 22/75
Malvern Ph. IV	495	5,950	\$19,650-\$24,750	Oct. 21/75
Malvern Ph. V	737	5,755	\$20,300-\$24,750	Apr. 7/76
Ottawa:				
Goulbourn				
Phase I	375	2,374	\$20,125-\$24,350	June 17/74
Phase II	183	1,184	\$20,125-\$24,350	Mar. 26/75
Phase III	275	671	\$21,000-\$25,480	Apr. 20/76
Stoney Creek:				
Phase I	228	546	\$18,200-\$20,800	Mar. 19/75
Phase II	150	468	\$20,000-\$22,500	Jan. 26/76
Thunder Bay:				
Northwood Park	38	93	\$20,640-\$24,818	Oct. 23/74

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Ontario

Legislature of Ontario Debates

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Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Tuesday, June 8, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1976

The House resumed at 8:05 p.m.

LIVE STOCK COMMUNITY SALES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. W. Newman moved second reading of Bill 90, An Act to amend the Live Stock Community Sales Act.

Mr. MacDonald: Does the minister have anything further to add with regard to this?

Mr. Lewis: Just as a warmup for later this evening?

Hon. W. Newman: I have no amendments to the bill.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I have examined this bill. It looks to be primarily a housekeeping bill with emphasis on streamlining the inspection procedures. There is nothing that appears to us to be worthy of spending any time on when we've got matters of higher priority. If there is a sleeper, we will find it sooner or later and try to cope with it.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments on this bill. The purpose of the bill is to give inspectors more latitude to do a complete inspection of livestock facilities and the livestock, and apparently an inspector can be appointed by a veterinarian to do the routine inspections. I am wondering what all this includes. Can a so-called qualified technician go into a community sales barn and actually detect some of the diseases that we want to be very careful that we don't spread back out into the country? Just to repeat that, the minister wasn't listening the first time, but under this bill—

Hon. W. Newman: I was talking to your leader if you want the record to show it.

Mr. Lewis: No, his leader was talking to you. You were monosyllabic.

Mr. Riddell: You were talking to one of the most capable men in this House then.

Mr. MacDonald: That includes the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick).

An hon. member: One of many.

Mr. Riddell: This bill permits veterinarians to appoint a technician to do the routine inspections. I am wondering if that technician can inspect livestock to detect some of the diseases that we must be very careful that we don't spread back out into the country, or is this technician simply going to inspect the facilities to see if they have been adequately cleaned and disinfected before a sale? I think it would only be a veterinarian who could detect such things as blue tongue and certainly we don't want—

Mr. Haggerty: What are you doing about it now?

Mr. Riddell: —that particular disease to spread throughout the country. Furthermore, I think there should be more adequate testing of the livestock in these community sales in order to detect such diseases as blue tongue which an ordinary person couldn't pick up. I understand that the improvements suggested in this bill have been recommended by the Ontario Cattlemen's Association, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Ontario hog producers and the Humane Society. If they have spent some time in recommending these changes, then I think the changes are all for the good.

The bill also allows operators to commence sale before the inspection is completed. I think previously all inspections had to be done before the sale started. If it happened to be a large sale, then they would have to wait for the veterinarian to complete his inspection work and it could delay the sale by an hour, which means that they would be going well on into the evening.

I think this is certainly a step in the right direction. In other words, if a veterinarian inspects a pen of chunks or wieners, then it is my understanding that the operator can start the sale and sell those pigs while the veterinarian is still inspecting the rest of the livestock.

The bill also provides more humane control of animals in distress, and I think this is a good thing. The veterinarian or the inspector can ask that the animal be disposed of right away, if it appears that that animal should not be going for human consumption or if it appears that the animal is in considerable distress. One good thing about this bill is that it provides for the identification and destruction of animals which have been rejected. This has been going on for far too long now. A pen of pigs has maybe been rejected by the veterinarian, so the owner simply takes those pigs and transports them to another sale, hopefully, to get those pigs into the sale and sold before a veterinarian detects that there is something wrong with them. Now if the veterinarian detects that there is something wrong with the livestock, he can ask that the livestock be destroyed immediately and that will certainly prevent any resale of these particular animals.

It is my understanding that any change will be brought about by regulation and that the community sale operators will be consulted when the regulations are in draft form. Here again I think this is a good thing. There are some concerns about marketing livestock through community sales. By the way, I think community sales have provided an excellent service for the livestock producers.

Mr. Renwick: No question about that.

Mr. Riddell: It's somewhat ironical to me that we can be putting a tighter rein on these community sales and yet we continue to allow the packing plants to operate at their whim and fancy. Who is it that's getting the farmers in trouble? It's not the community sales. I have never known a community sale to default yet in payment to a farmer, but we have seen what happens in connection with packing plants. I think it's high time that something was done to see that such plants were bonded. I am pleased that the minister has set up a task force to look into this very thing.

Another concern among some of the producers is the weighing of livestock at community sales. They feel that either the weighman should be bonded or that the weighman should be a government-appointed person. Some of the farmers are somewhat skeptical of the weighing of the livestock going through some of these scales.

Also the buyers of livestock would like to have that livestock identified with a certain owner. They are prepared to pay more money if they know that the livestock came from

one farm rather than suspecting that the livestock had been picked up here, there and all over the place, put together in a group and then offered to the farmers. I think this is one thing that we might insist on, and that is that the ownership of these livestock be made known at some of these sales.

[8:15]

Mr. Wildman: How can they bid back their livestock?

Mr. Riddell: I think I've pretty well covered the points I wanted to make.

I don't know whether we could put a tighter rein on the detection of brucellosis, because I think it is on the incline in Ontario again. Our system is to tag cattle or cows in the sales barn, trace those cows through the packing plant, and test their blood to see whether they have brucellosis. If there are signs of brucellosis, the vets go out into the country and test the herds from which these cows came. But unfortunately some of these cows get into the sales barn and then go back out into the country again.

I don't know whether there is some way we could test these cows once they get into the sales barn, if they are going to go back out into the country, just to prevent the spread of brucellosis. The minister knows as well as I do that they are detecting more brucellosis in our cattle now than they did just a few years ago.

These are some of the comments that I would like to make on the bill, but I do want to say that we do support the bill.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, just a few comments.

The technicians are not appointed by the vets. They have to be approved by the ministry and by our people to make sure they are properly qualified to do this work at the community sales. They must be properly qualified and satisfactorily qualified according to our ministry standards.

Mr. Riddell: What about at the start of a sale?

Hon. W. Newman: You talked about the start of a sale. As the member knows, the veterinarian quite often does come to sales first thing in the morning. In some cases some cattle come in later. This gives the technician the right to inspect these cattle coming in later, and also lets the sale get moving and allows the technician or the veterinarian to inspect livestock on a truck in the yard if they are sick. The technician

does not have the power to destroy; the technician has the power to hold until the veterinarian can come and have a look at the animal to see if it really should be destroyed. Certainly we will be glad to talk about it to the community sales people when we come to their rights on the matter. This is really just tightening up a little bit on our community sales. I think it is a good piece of legislation.

Also, the member was talking about bonding. There will be no problem at community sales. The member was getting back to other matters, and as he knows, I did set up a committee to deal with this. They had their first meeting, I believe, last Friday morning. They are moving forward with ways and means to look at banks in these situations.

There is one other thing the member mentioned. I think all susceptible cattle are now being tested for brucellosis at community sales. They take that quick test on them, which is a 20-minute test or something, at the community sales at the present time. I think really what we're saying is, it just gives a little better inspection service, a little bit tighter situation at community sales.

By and large, the community sales operators in the Province of Ontario do a very fine job and are very capable people. We do, unfortunately, have some problems from time to time and have had, and thus this amendment we have brought forward tonight is just to tighten up a little bit.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

THIRD READINGS

The following bills were given third reading upon motion:

Bill 90, An Act to amend the Live Stock Community Sales Act.

Bill 54, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, what exactly is happening here tonight?

Mr. Breithaupt: These are called third readings.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, I recognize a third reading when I hear one, thank you. On the other hand, I would like to know whether

we're proceeding to any second readings after the third readings, and if we're not, where has the chilling of nerve occurred? What is this sudden shift in plans for the evening?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, may we just continue with the third readings, which will only take a few minutes, and then we could discuss the second readings.

THIRD READINGS

(continued)

Bill 55, An Act to amend the Regional Municipalities Amendment Act.

Bill 64, An Act to amend the Housing Development Act.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: In fact, before this bizarre turn of events, which, for whatever reason—

Mr. Nixon: Is this a point of order?

Mr. Lewis: Yes, it's a point of order.

Mr. Nixon: It is not a speech?

Mr. Lewis: —only the Liberals or Tories know about.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: Alas, we have been removed from the scene.

Mr. Singer: Have you been rejected again?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, the whips, as I understand it, had thought that Bill 96 was being proceeded with. I take it the acting House leader is not proceeding with the bill, he's going directly to budget debate. Will we have some explanation for the change, since the Minister of Agriculture and Food is here?

Mr. Good: The minister is not here.

Mr. Singer: Come on, Rene.

Mr. MacDonald: What's going on over there in the Liberal Party coalition?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: They are going to vote with you, Bill. Let's proceed with the bill.

Mr. Warner: What are you afraid of?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: What order did they call?

Mr. Lewis: They are not calling second reading of Bill 96. Why?

Mr. Ferrier: That's a retreat.

Mr. Lewis: You've got the Liberal support. Let's go.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Does the acting House leader have any comment to make?

Mr. Nixon: Call the order you want. Go ahead. Call the orders.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: I would suggest that we revert to the first order.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Breithaupt: Nothing is out of order.

Mr. Lewis: You don't know that yet, nor do I. On a point of order, since this House normally depends on the co-operation of the whips and the parties to proceed with the business, could the acting House leader please explain to us why the business of the House has been abruptly altered tonight? Since the Minister of Agriculture and Food is here and allegedly prepared to proceed with second reading of the farm income stabilization bill, why is the acting House leader suddenly withdrawing this and moving to the budget?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: As the hon. Leader of the Opposition knows, Mr. Speaker, I always try to be most obliging—

Mr. MacDonald: To whom?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: I do. I think I've always tried to be most obliging.

Mr. MacDonald: To whom?

Mr. Lewis: What are your instructions?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Under the circumstances—

Mr. Lewis: What circumstances?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: There is no point of order.

Mr. Renwick: On a point of order.

Mr. MacDonald: On a point of order.

Some hon. members: On a point of order.

Mr. Acting Speaker: My colleague from York South has yielded the first point of order.

Mr. Lewis: We are clearly agitated.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Riverdale has a point of order. Would he please state it?

Mr. Renwick: My point of order is that since September of last year the business of this House has been conducted by agreement among the three House leaders—

Mr. Lewis: That's right.

Mr. Singer: That's no point of order. Shame.

Mr. Renwick: —on each and every occasion with minor exceptions—

Mr. Haggerty: It is a minor one tonight.

Mr. Renwick: —to which I make the categorical statement that that's what the business of the Legislature is about. When we adjourned at 6:05 p.m. tonight, the order of business had not been altered. The House leader for the Conservative Party is not in the House, the House leader of this party is not in the House; the House leader of the Liberal Party is in the House but obviously—

Interjections.

Mr. Renwick: —has not consulted—

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: —I would think the only acceptable procedure in this Parliament is that the acting House leader should adjourn this House at this point in time—

Mr. Singer: Acceptable to whom?

Mr. Roy: What's the point of order?

Mr. Nixon: He feels a speech coming on.

Mr. Renwick: —until such time as the three House leaders have an opportunity to meet together to reorder the business of the House.

Interjections.

Mr. Renwick: If that doesn't happen I can assure you that this party will not engage any longer in that kind of co-operative effort to make this assembly work.

Mr. Nixon: And you have come to that decision, Jim.

Mr. Singer: We want to call the Ombudsman, too.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, you, as Speaker of the assembly, know as well as I do that the conduct of this House which is in your charge—

Mr. Nixon: There's no rule about that.

Mr. Renwick: —has depended upon the co-operative activity of each of the parties represented by their House leaders.

Mr. Singer: It is your greatest hour.

Mr. Renwick: I, for one, as a member of this assembly, consider that it is a breach of my privilege that this evening the order of the House would be altered without any consultation with the House leader of this party; that the House leader of the government party would be absent; and that the House leader of the Liberal Party, who is the one present, has made no explanation of what it's about.

Mr. Cunningham: It is not his function.

Mr. Roy: We are the only persons present.

Mr. Renwick: I simply ask, Mr. Speaker, that you rule on my request that the—

Mr. Lewis: That the House adjourn.

Mr. Renwick: —House adjourn. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Jolliffe tried it on one occasion. I move the adjournment of the House.

Interjections.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, speaking to the point of order that has been raised—

Mr. Lewis: There is no point of order. It is a motion.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. There is a motion to adjourn which is not debatable.

Mr. Renwick: moves the adjournment of the House.

Mr. Lewis: You have cold feet in the government; panic in the Liberal ranks and—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: Look at all the Liberals here.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: It is the only way you can muster courage.

Mr. Breithaupt: It is also a lot of fun.

[8:30]

The House divided on Mr. Renwick's motion, which was negatived on the following vote:

Clerk of the House: Mr. Speaker, the "ayes" are 30, the "nays" are 59.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion lost.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, prior to the motion for adjournment, I would like to indicate that the order of business on Thursday will be estimates. We turn to the estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Hon. Mr. Welch: moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, since I believe the rules of the House require an intervening order of business between motions of adjournment, may I offer the House leader that opportunity by asking him for an explanation of what occurred this evening and whether or not we are proceeding with second reading of the Farm Income Stabilization Act?

Mr. MacDonald: Next Monday?

Mr. Bullbrook: On a point of order, if I may speak to that for a moment, may I suggest for your respectful consideration, Mr. Speaker, that the Leader of the Opposition is quite right, the standing orders require intermediate business between two motions to adjourn.

Interjections.

Mr. Bullbrook: But I suggest to you that his question of response from the House leader cannot be construed in anybody's wildest imagination as intermediate business.

Mr. Lewis: On the point of order, I think that the member for Sarnia is probably right but irrelevant.

Mr. Bullbrook: I want in fairness to show that I don't have that weary gait. This is an inside joke. May I speak to that in this respect? I would rather be right than irrelevant.

Mr. Lewis: May I, however, on the point of order, which may now precede the intervening matter of business, ask the House leader whether an explanation can be offered and whether we are in fact proceeding with second reading of the bill which was stood down, or wasn't called?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I think it has been a fairly long night and there have been—

Mr. MacDonald: You need another cabinet meeting, do you?

Hon. Mr. Welch: —some discussions which preceded this. Out of respect for those with whom I had these discussions earlier, I should clarify one or two issues with them. I think the House is entitled to some explanation which I will be prepared to give on Thursday.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the House leader (Mr. Welch) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Thursday, June 10, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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A list of the speakers taking part in the debates in this issue of Hansard appears, in alphabetical order, at the back of this issue.

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege. On Tuesday last the members of this House were given copies of their legislative expenses and I happened to notice with a great deal of interest that it was recorded that my spouse was to have taken one trip.

An hon. member: Who is she?

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: If I could have order for just one moment, I'm sure you and the hon. members of this House would like to know that I'll be getting married for the first time this coming Aug. 14.

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: I would like to have the record cleared of this libellous account, as it makes it very difficult for me to go home and face my fiancée.

Mr. Speaker: I really think that time will correct that situation.

Statements by the ministry.

WELFARE RECIPIENTS

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the hon. member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) requested that I table the figures for employables on general welfare assistance rolls in the province, with a comparison for the same period last year. I am pleased to provide that information at this time.

As the hon. member may be aware, the basis for reporting on provincial trends regarding general welfare assistance from month to month is based on the data obtained from municipal welfare officials in 10 key cities, which represent 60 per cent of the total general welfare assistance caseload in the province. These 10 cities are: Toronto, Kingston, Waterloo, Ottawa-Carleton, Hamil-

ton, Sudbury, London, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

The 10 cities' figures show that the total number of employables among general welfare assistance recipients dropped by only 385, that is from 15,741 in January, 1975, to 15,359 in April, 1975, a decline of two per cent in those four months. In January, 1976, total employables on general welfare assistance caseload stood at 16,307. As of April, 1976, they had dropped to 12,074, which is a reduction of 26 per cent in the first four months of this year.

This 2 per cent drop in employables on general welfare assistance rolls is even more significant when one compares the total caseload figures. The total general welfare assistance caseload, including employables and unemployables, stood at 40,444 in January, 1975. It remained virtually constant and stood at 40,488 in April, 1975. As of January of this year, it was 41,185 and in April of this year it had declined 10.6 per cent to 36,829.

If one compares the drop in employables with the decline in total caseload, it is apparent that the employables have been declining at over double the rate of the caseload reduction.

It has been suggested by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) that the reduction in general welfare assistance rolls was accomplished, at least in part, by transferring people from temporary welfare at the municipal level to the provincial rolls for long-term family benefits assistance. The statistics show that this is not the case. If you will compare the increase from Jan. 30 to May 30 of this year, you will find that the family benefit assistance caseload increased from 102,033 to 103,035, an increase of just one per cent. In the same period last year, the family benefit assistance caseload increased from 90,349 to 94,775, an increase of five per cent.

The data for Ottawa-Carleton is indeed different from the province-wide trend. The general welfare assistance caseload in Ottawa-Carleton dropped from 3,665 in April, 1975, to 2,821 in April, 1976, that is 23 per cent. The number of employables increased from 427 in April, 1975, to 635 in April, 1976.

The number of unemployables, however, was sharply reduced from 3,238 in April 1975, to 2,186 in April 1976. The increase in employables does, of course, involve a relatively small number on which to base any local trend.

With regard to Metropolitan Toronto, the total general welfare assistance caseload dropped from 11,538 in May, 1975, to 10,748 in May, 1976—a decline of approximately seven per cent. While the total number of employables rose from 25,000 in May, 1975, to 26,315 in April, 1976, they had dropped again in a single month to 25,903 in May, 1976.

As I said in my address to the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the experience of certain municipalities may vary from the norm. However, I am sure that the figures I have detailed today graphically demonstrate the wisdom and social benefit accruing from my ministry's programmes in the past few months, and—

Mr. Laughren: Resign.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —and that the trend to move employable people from welfare back into self-sufficient roles in the community will continue. This is our aim.

Mr. R. S. Smith: The programme has nothing to do with it.

Mr. Speaker: Any further statements by the ministry? The Minister of Colleges and Universities. I'm sorry, the Chairman of Management Board—my mind slipped back a few months.

Mr. Moffat: It always is.

ARBITRATOR'S AWARD

Hon. Mr. Auld: Nothing but straight lines, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday, Wednesday, June 9, a five-line telegram was received from Prof. G. J. Brandt, chairman of the arbitration board for the technical services category, advising that the board has awarded wage increases of \$20 per week plus five per cent for the 4,900 employees in this category. He also advised that the details of the award would follow.

Until we receive the actual award and learn how the increases are to be applied, it is not possible to calculate the exact costs of the award. However, based on the limited information in the telegram, the average increase would appear to be in the neigh-

bourhood of 14 per cent. The board rejected the union's request for a built-in cost of living allowance.

Since the award must be submitted for consideration by the Anti-Inflation Board, the government is not in a position to implement the award until we know the extent to which it will be sanctioned by that Anti-Inflation Board. However, we are currently investigating the possibility of providing some interim payment for the employees concerned.

Wage increases for the employees in the other seven categories are still under review by the seven different boards still sitting and awards are expected over the course of the next several weeks.

TRUCK HAUL RATES IN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to announce that all government ministries will include minimum truck haul rates in future contracts. They will be based on—

Mr. Moffatt: Good move.

Hon. Mr. Snow: —Ministry of Transportation and Communications contracts which have included a minimum rate clause for more than 10 years. Based on several factors, including the purchase price of the truck, overhead and maintenance, operating costs and wages, the rates are reviewed at the end of each fiscal year. Interim adjustments may be made during the year, however, if any of the factors have an adverse effect on trucking costs.

Contractors dealing with my ministry are obliged by the terms of such contracts to pay all truckers hired by them or their sub-contractors at least the minimum rate contained in any particular contract.

Should the rate alter during the life of the contract, however, the contractor is not obliged to pay the new rate. He is bound only by the initial contractual rate.

The minimum rate applies only to trucks hired by the prime contractor or his sub-contractor. It does not apply to trucks hired or owned by other suppliers of materials to the contract. Local agreements, bylaws or the availability of trucks may cause the contractor to pay rates in excess of the prescribed minimums; under the terms of his contract with the ministry, however, he may not pay less.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

MERCURY ANALYSIS PROGRAMME

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, may I first ask a question of the Solicitor General and Provincial Secretary for Justice? Could he elaborate on the annual report—that section which deals with the mercury analysis programme—indicating that tissue and blood samples obtained for medical-legal post-mortem examinations are being provided for mercury testing and neurological examination whenever mercury might be considered a cause of death of any resident in the English-Wabigoon River system? Have there been such tests? Is there any comment he would have to offer on the results of this work with the Ministry of Health?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I don't have many figures involved with it but I understand that whenever there is a death in that area which they feel might be due to mercury poisoning, they are making pathological examinations and recording them. The chief coroner is in charge of the programme and our estimates, as the member knows, are before committee at the present time. I am sure he will be glad to elaborate on the programme but it is going on.

[2:15]

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: So far as the minister knows or so far as he has heard, no specific evidence of mercury as part of the pathological findings has been brought to his attention? Would the chief coroner normally inform him of that?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I'm not so sure what the member is getting at. I think they have found traces of mercury in some of the bodies that they have examined but as to whether they have come to any conclusion, I don't think they have. They're trying to establish statistics and that's the point it's at now, just gathering the statistics.

Mr. Angus: Supplementary: Does the examination include adults and children who have since moved away from that particular area should they happen to become deceased over the next year or so?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I don't believe so. I think it's just done on the bodies of people who die in that area. I don't think they try to co-ordinate them across the country in any way. Again, more particulars of that should be obtained from the coroners.

Mr. Bain: Supplementary: Can the minister tell us if similar tests have been done on any other people who have died in other areas of the province, and if so, what areas?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: They are testing many bodies all the time. I don't think there is any attempt to co-ordinate the material and the findings as they are attempting to do in the Kenora area.

MERCURY CONTENT OF FISH

Mr. Lewis: I have a question of the Minister of Health. Does the minister now have a target date for the tabling of the report of the doctors and scientists who visited Japan?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have just been informed that the report is finished and that it is being typed right now. It may not be printed before the House rises; however, if I could in some fashion obtain copies prior to printing I'd be delighted to see that it was made available while the House was still sitting.

Mr. Lewis: Thank you. I have a supplementary. Does the minister know anything about the famous nutrition report which is coming from the federal government which was the centrepiece of the discussion at the May 20 meeting with federal and provincial civil servants allegedly to provide an alternative food supply? It's now more than two weeks later. We still don't have that report although it was promised at the meeting.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, I honestly don't. I haven't seen the report at all.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES' NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Lewis: May I ask a question of the Minister of Labour? Is the minister aware that we are faced with a province-wide public health nurses' walkout—effectively a strike—in 26 district health units starting Monday for an entire week? Is there no way to rescue this classic failure of labour negotiations by some kind of government intervention before the nurses are forced out?

Hon. B. Stephenson: As the hon. Leader of the Opposition knows very well, we have been attempting to provide some effective mediation in this dispute for the last two months. There will, I'm informed, be a withdrawal of service by 26 units of the public health nurses in the Province of Ontario

which, I gather, will extend from Monday until Friday of next week. I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that the Minister of Health and I will be meeting again with the executive committee of ONA next week. We are still attempting to persuade the boards of health to a form of action which may hopefully resolve the problem. There has been personal intervention on this occasion over the last few months but, I am sorry to tell the hon. member, thus far to no avail.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask one supplementary? Is the minister saying that she, as the minister, has tried to prevail on the boards of health and has been unable to get anywhere? Does the minister not think then that there comes a moment in time when she says publicly what she thinks of the boards of health, indicates what she's asked them to do; and perhaps even directs them to do it, rather than to let relations wear so thin that the nurses walk out? Surely that's destructive later on.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The problem related to the relationships between public health nurses and boards of health is one which has been of grave concern to both the Minister of Health and myself. There are a number of groups of people actively involved in studying this problem and attempting to find a resolution which will be of a permanent nature and not one which will simply solve this problem this year.

Mr. Nixon: Since the minister has indicated that she participated personally, or perhaps with the Minister of Health or representatives of the ministry, are they endeavouring to bring about some procedure whereby there will be an arbitration procedure or province-wide negotiations? What is the nature of her intervention?

Hon. B. Stephenson: The nature of the intervention, Mr. Speaker, has been to try to explore, with boards of health and with the Ontario Nurses' Association, methods of solving this problem, as I said, on a more permanent basis.

Mr. Nixon: Are you opposed to arbitration?

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, we are not opposed to an arbitration procedure. We have, in fact, proposed arbitration as well as other methods of solving the problem.

Mr. Moffatt: I would like to ask the minister if she has consulted with the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) on the long-term costs of such a short view of this whole problem as

this seems to be. The cutting out of preventive care, such as the public health nurses are providing, in the long run, it would seem to me, will cost this province more. Has the minister consulted with the Treasurer as to the advisability of changing the guidelines as they apply to health units?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Well, the Treasurer did not set the guidelines in the first place. There has been much consultation regarding this entire matter and it is not a short-term provision at all. This is a matter which is obviously going to be of a long-term nature, and therefore requires a solution which will be effective, not only this year but for many years to come.

There are certain qualifications this year which make it perhaps a little more difficult, and the inactivity of certain of the boards of health in 1975 has complicated this matter tremendously. We are trying to find a reasonable solution which will be of a permanent nature rather than a short-term nature.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary: Surely the minister is talking about legislation, and since that would be long-term, and hopefully short-term as well, is she in a position to announce, some time before the strike takes place, that this House will be given legislation to consider which might avert the present strike and lead us to a long-term solution, which is greatly to be desired?

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, I am not in a position to announce this at this time. This is certainly one of the proposals which is being examined very carefully; there are a number of routes in that direction which might be considered.

ST. LAWRENCE RESIN PRODUCTS LTD.

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Minister of the Environment: How is the minister responding to Marshall and Thibideau, the barristers and solicitors in Cayuga, who have written to draw his attention to the unpleasant fact that the St. Lawrence Resin Products Ltd. plant in Cayuga apparently continues to emit aldehydes into the air, which the ministry has already indicated could well be damaging to human health; and that the situation has persisted with the minister's knowledge for almost five years, even though the ministry has on one occasion moved against the company? Is the minister prepared to move in against the company now?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I haven't seen the latest letter from Marshall and Thibideau. I'll have to read it first and reply to the hon. member when I have done so.

Mr. Lewis: Are they right in saying that the minister indicated, as early as February, 1976, that respiratory problems will result; that the irritants range from pulmonary edema, bronchial spasms, irritation of mucous membranes, right through to abdominal cramps; and that all of this has been experienced by the residents of the area with the full knowledge of the Ministry of the Environment and nothing has been done?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I know that the ministry is aware of that problem and has been working with the plant trying to minimize it. I believe there is a control order against the plant. I am not sure if there has been any prosecution, but certainly at least three or four years ago we were aware of it and trying to do something about it.

However, I haven't seen the latest correspondence from the solicitors. I am surprised that Mr. Marshall is one of them; but in any event when I have that information I would be happy to reply.

Mr. Nixon: Why would that surprise the minister?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I'll tell the member later.

Mr. Cunningham: Given that the minister admits and recognizes this problem has existed for the last three or four years, when is he going to do something about this before we have some serious health problems there? Do we have to wait for some letter by a lawyer before this government can take action?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Was a specific question asked?

Mr. Nixon: What is the minister going to do?

Mr. Cunningham: The question was when is the minister going to do something? Do we have to wait, in the Province of Ontario, for some letter from some lawyer before we take action?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: No, Mr. Speaker. Sorry, I didn't realize the supplementary was directed to me. As I indicated to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, we are aware of the problem. It's a complex problem. We're trying to do something about it and before I can reply to

the hon. member's question I must read that latest correspondence.

SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. S. Smith: I'd like to ask a question of the Treasurer, Mr. Speaker, in view of his brief to the royal commission on corporate concentration in which he blames small business to some extent for the poor productivity record of this country. Can we take it from that brief that the Treasurer has nothing to offer to make the small business sector in Ontario a healthier, more competitive and more profitable sector, and that he has pretty well thrown in the sponge and given it all up to the large businesses with which he is so familiar?

Interjections.

Mr. Moffatt: Be charitable.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I am tempted, but it's a hot day. Somebody tells me we are approaching the end of the session.

Mr. Martel: Don't count on it.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Rather than rise to that rather feeble bait, I would simply say that I advise the leader of the third party to read that brief. I would simply advise the leader of the third party to look over the record of this government in terms of its support through the Ontario Development Corp.

Mr. Nixon: The NDP is the only one that is really interested.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: In terms of taxation policy, the last being in the most recent budget—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is difficult to hear the answer.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: In terms of the legislation now on the order paper for venture investment corporations, which legislation attracted notice in the budget of the federal government just a few weeks ago. Once again, they follow Ontario's example. I would say to the leader of the third party—

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There is no point of order.

Mr. Speaker: I will hear the point of order.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, we're continually being told that our questions must be framed, must be concise and must be short. Do we have to put up with answers as long as we get from that side? He should be brought to order as well and told to stick to the answers.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I point out two things? No. 1, the minister answers a question with whatever information or in whatever manner he wishes. No. 2, it was a very general question about "what are you going to do for small business?" or some such question as that.

Mr. Riddell: You don't care and neither does he. Tell us what you are doing for the retailers in this province.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: We are wasting time.

Mr. Roy: He is wasting time.

Mr. Speaker: We are wasting time with all these interjections which are totally unnecessary. A general question would generally evoke a rather general answer. I would ask that the questions be as specific as possible and the answers likewise. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I accept your admonition and may I say, speaking to the point of order, that it's great to see the member for Ottawa East trying to take his leader off the hook but it didn't work. It really didn't work.

Mr. Peterson: Answer the question.

Mr. Roy: I am trying to help you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Albert, you are getting ready for a byelection.

Mr. Roy: I am not worried about a byelection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, Mr. Speaker, amused as I am at the interesting teamwork which exists between the two sides of the same coin of large business—both of whom depend only on large business and large unions—I still want to know if the Treasurer is aware of the consternation—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Hamilton West is asking a question. The hon. member may continue.

Mr. S. Smith: I still want to know—

Mr. Lewis: The leader of the Liberal Party is an authority on both sides of the same coin.

Mr. S. Smith: The amusement is really remarkable when we consider that 55 per cent of our people work for the small enterprises in this province, my friend, and they are the people who will put—

[2:30]

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: Does the Treasurer realize—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Could we get on with the question period?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Order, please. We are wasting very valuable time. The hon. member for Hamilton West is asking a question.

Mr. S. Smith: They're quite happy with the influence they have had on the press gallery, you understand.

Mr. Lewis: Oh!

Mr. MacDonald: Question?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hamilton West has the floor.

Mr. S. Smith: Does the Treasurer appreciate, Mr. Speaker, the degree of consternation that he has created in the small business sector of Ontario by his brief, which apparently, from its own wording—and I've had the misfortune of looking at it—

Mr. Deans: Is this the Treasurer's opinion, too?

Mr. S. Smith: —that this brief has pretty well written off small business as a non-productive, low-profit sector in Ontario, which makes Canada uncompetitive—

Mr. McNeil: Question.

Mr. S. Smith: —and that this has caused considerable consternation in the small business sector of this province?

Mr. Nixon: Throw him out of the Conservative Party.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Peterson: Can you say that a little louder?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Yes.

Mr. Roy: That's good. That's good. That's better.

Mr. Peterson: The Treasurer is a small man. He should be good at small business.

Mr. S. Smith: Isn't he lucky? The Treasurer doesn't even have to have his own people. He's got his own cheering section right here waiting for him.

Mr. Deans: And not with you.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: How are you coming with the next election?

Mr. S. Smith: Oh, you're the election hawk. We know how brave you are. We know how brave you are. The July election boys.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are wasting time, I say.

METRIC PAPER SIZES

Mr. S. Smith: Would the Minister of Government Services please explain to us why it is that the Ontario government is among a very small minority of enterprises that have switched to metric paper sizes?

An hon. member: Oh no!

Mr. S. Smith: Can the minister explain why this change has occurred and the financial premium? Could she give us exactly the financial premium we must pay as a result of our unusual paper sizes, what this amounts to in dollars?

Interjections.

An hon. member: Go get him, Margaret.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: Ask one of the boys.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have spectators in the gallery, and I'm sure they're judging all the interjections. Order, please.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, I have already provided this information in very considerable detail to one of the member's colleagues, but I will be pleased to provide this information for him again.

Mr. S. Smith: No, the dollar value is not there.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: Since the answer which the minister kindly provided did not contain the dollar value, would she please give us that—and could she tell us what other metric conversion will be necessitated by this change, such matters as binders, bookcases, punches and the like, and at what cost?

Hon. J. R. Smith: Tennis balls.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: The introduction of the metric system, of course, is a federal responsibility, Mr. Speaker. This government is simply complying and co-operating with that level of government.

Mr. Peterson: About time.

An hon. member: Your friends.

Mr. S. Smith: As a final supplementary, is the minister not aware that Ontario is the only government and virtually the only enterprise in all of Canada that went over to this particular paper size? Why are we being unique in this matter?

Mr. Yakabuski: That's terrible.

Mr. S. Smith: It certainly is.

CHLOROFORM HAZARDS

Mr. S. Smith: A question to the Minister of Health: Can he tell us whether there has been any representation made by him within Ontario and within provincial and federal relations to have companies stop using chloroform in cough medicines, cosmetics, tooth-pastes and so on, especially in view of the evidence that has been recently forthcoming that chloroform causes cancer and possibly birth defects in various species?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, that may well be under discussion at the federal-provincial level. I know that the Patent Medicines Act is up for either cancellation or review shortly, and I would suspect that a complete review of those chemicals that'll be permitted to be sold over the counter or put into prescriptions will be made shortly.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, I hadn't read it.

WATER POLLUTION

Mr. S. Smith: A related question to the Minister of the Environment following my question of a few days ago regarding chloro-organic compounds and chloroform in the

drinking water of Ontario: Has he anything more to report, especially in view of today's article in the Toronto Sun indicating more recent information that US government researchers have now confirmed preliminary reports that chloroform causes cancer in test animals and the US Food and Drug Administration has insisted that companies stop using it in the medicines I referred to earlier?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The hon. member is referring again to a report from the United States. I hope to have a full answer for him on Monday as far as any problems in Ontario are concerned in any particular purification plant.

OHC ADMINISTRATION

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The hon. member for Hamilton West asked me to produce the names of the consultants making a study and the terms of reference of this study, particularly as they apply to Ontario Housing Corp.

The purpose of the study is to review the adequacy of the existing organization structure in relation to the ministry's current and future responsibilities in the housing development, housing management and community planning fields. Where appropriate, it will identify alternative approaches to optimize programme effectiveness and the operating efficiency.

There are three phases within the study. Phase 1 concerns fundamental questions relating to organizational design and alternative structures for consideration by the ministry; phase 2 deals with roles and relationships of Crown corporations within the ministry; and phase 3 is an implementation planning stage involving the development of estimates of manpower and financial resources, etc., with respect to the particular organizational alternative which the ministry decides to recommend to Management Board.

Four firms responded to the invitation to submit proposals and the one submitted by Redma Consultants Ltd. was not only judged to be superior to the other three, it was also, at the price of \$30,000, the lowest price. Mr. K. O. Hillyer, project director, headed up a task force of personnel seconded from the ministry to participate in the study. An interim report on findings has been submitted and is currently under consideration in the ministry.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary on this particular question: Could the minister explain to us what it is that prompted the

study to be done of OHC, which cost \$30,000, and to take into account this whole matter of Crown corporations and their relationship to the Ministry of Housing? What is the necessity for this study? Could he explain that to us and could he give us any indication as to the preliminary findings so far?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: First of all, I thought in my response I indicated that this was not a study particularly of Ontario Housing Corp. or of the relationship of corporations to the ministry but it was much broader than that. As to what brought the study on, it was as a result of attempting to reorganize, restructure and bring a little more efficiency, if you will, into the total operation. For example, in the case of Ontario Housing, we were looking at non-corporate matters, rather than having duplication of some services, to bring some of these services back into the ministry, such as accounting, payroll and personnel and this sort of thing, which can be handled out of one centre—

Mr. Nixon: We don't need OHC at all.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: —but to retain the board to carry out their corporate responsibilities in the handling of the housing development programme.

DEATH OF ZOO MONKEYS

Mr. Duksza: I have a question of the Minister of Health. A couple of weeks ago 12 monkeys died suddenly at the Metro zoo. I want to ask the minister a three-part question about this. Does he know what the monkeys have died of? Has he isolated the virus? If not, what would he have done, if it was a Marburg virus, to isolate 20 or 30 people who were exposed who would have been in need of treatment, in view of the fact that the ministry doesn't have any preparations and there is capacity only to isolate about three to four people?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I didn't realize the member is expanding my field.

Mr. Duksza: That's health.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mind you, Mr. Speaker, I have been dealing with them across the House for some time.

Mr. Moffatt: You are the appropriate one too.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Honestly, I can't answer because I don't know, but I will be pleased to find out.

COURT DELAYS

Mr. Roy: I have a question to the Attorney General dealing with the problem of overcrowding and the delays in our courts, especially our criminal courts of justice. Why would the minister limit what we would call, I guess, judicially supervised disclosures—the experiment in Ottawa—to Ottawa and not have it in Toronto where the problem is most acute, especially since the programme, the experiment, has been tried in Montreal and has been proved successful—there has been an experiment in Montreal lasting for a year and according to the statistics we saved some 30,000 witness days and—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Shorten the question.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Question.

Mr. Riddell: Just be quiet. You will learn something, John.

Mr. Roy: Yes, I am just completing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Are we getting to the question?

Mr. Roy: Yes, my question is: Why, in view of these statistics, would the minister want to limit the experiment to Ottawa and not have it working in other large centres, especially in Toronto where the problem is most acute? Among the—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member for Ottawa East please take his seat?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I assume from the tenor of the remarks of the hon. member for Ottawa East that he approves of the pilot project in Ottawa which, I have to say, commenced as a result of a visit I made there two months ago. We intend to do the same thing in Metropolitan Toronto as soon as possible.

We are short-staffed in Toronto but at the present time, as has been announced, we are decentralizing our Crown attorneys' department in Metropolitan Toronto in order to establish a better liaison with both the police and the profession, particularly in relation to the serious cases before our courts. As soon as this decentralization has been implemented, we expect to proceed with a similar project to that being conducted in Ottawa at the present time.

Mr. Roy: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, if I may: Perhaps the very reason the ministry

is short-staffed in Toronto is because it doesn't have this sort of programme.

Mr. Speaker: The question, please.

Mr. Roy: I am getting there, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It doesn't seem like it up to now.

Mr. Roy: Does the minister not feel—which came first, the chicken or the egg?—that he should have that type of programme? It would take away some of the pressure on his staff and he would have more staff. Doesn't he feel he is going at it sort of backwards? Institute the programme and he will have sufficient staff.

Mr. Bullbrook: Will you answer that question?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: You tell me what the question is and I will attempt to answer it.

Mr. Roy: You know the question.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I think we are going about it the right way, Mr. Speaker.

EFFECT OF FLUORESCENT
LIGHT ON FOOD

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to a question asked of the Premier earlier by the hon. member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr) concerning the effects of lighting on the nutritional value of milk.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I told you we would get the answer for you.

An hon. member: He asked you as well? He has asked the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. He has asked everybody that question.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: Milk is the freshest and the single most economical and most nourishing food we have.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Do we want to hear the answer or not?

Mr. S. Smith: When the commercials are over, could he answer the question?

Hon. W. Newman: It is the closest thing to the perfect food we know in Ontario.

Mr. Peterson: It's not served at the Albany Club. What are you talking about?

Hon. W. Newman: This is a very serious matter I am discussing and I want members to listen.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: Because of the high value we place on milk, the Ontario government is concerned about maintaining the high standard of freshness and quality of this product in our province.

Research in Ontario and elsewhere has documented the fact that milk, when subject to prolonged high-intensity lighting, may develop an off-flavour and suffer losses in nutritional value, particularly in ascorbic acid and riboflavin.

Mr. Nixon: There is one page.

Hon. W. Newman: The most recent significant study of this matter was funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and published in 1973 by Dr. John M. de Mann of the University of Guelph in the Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology Journal, Vol. 6, No. 7. Dr. de Mann's report established that there is adequate technology now available to prevent any impairment of milk quality from exposure to light.

[2:45]

The speed of oxidation and the speed at which nutrients disappear increase with the intensity of light, therefore milk deteriorates faster in one store than another simply because of the differences in the showcase lighting in different retail outlets. The concerned consumer who wants maximum nutritional value would be well advised to buy fresh milk which is displayed in a cold and dark storage area.

At the same time, it takes time for light to have any detrimental effect on quality—

Mr. Roy: How about going directly to the cow?

Mr. Nixon: Why don't you table it?

Hon. W. Newman: —and the speed at which milk moves from the cow to the buyer's table is one guarantee of quality. Most milk sold in Ontario just does not sit for 24 hours or longer on a shelf in intense light. The production and distribution system is that efficient.

Mr. Peterson: You're the new Louis Pasteur.

Hon. W. Newman: The package in which milk is displayed and sold can have some effect on protecting nutritional value on the

basis of its resistance to light. A clear plastic pouch or a translucent milk jug obviously will not keep out as much light as a cardboard container. Ideally, I suppose, a black container which is impervious to light would make the perfect milk container, preferably in the form of a refillable money-back jug for maximum environmental benefit.

Mr. Ferris: An Aberdeen Angus is the best container.

Hon. W. Newman: However, milk producers and processors must concern themselves with product package and sales appeal. For example, one company introduced a milk pouch with a green plastic liner about four years ago for test marketing. It turned out to be unpopular with consumers and expensive to produce so it was withdrawn from the market. Within the industry there are a number of experiments under way to reduce light transmission of containers and thereby protect their contents.

As I said, we value milk for its nutritional worth and the industry and government are both concerned about maintaining an established high standard of quality and freshness.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food has the regulatory responsibility for package sizes under the Milk Act and the Ministry of the Environment has the authority to regulate packaging from an environmental standpoint; the federal Department of National Health and Welfare's bureau of chemical safety approves container materials.

The Minister of the Environment informs me he is expecting a report on milk containers from the ministry's waste management advisory board. This will represent a comprehensive study of both returnable and non-returnable containers in the industry and should make a significant contribution to our knowledge of milk packaging.

Mr. S. Smith: How many chapters will this oral answer be in?

Hon. W. Newman: At least I'm saying something.

Mr. Cunningham: It is kind of like Chinese food, of no great substance.

Hon. W. Newman: Our two ministries, the Ontario Dairy Council and the Ontario Milk Marketing Board are working on the various potential concerns in milk packaging, so that as the industry converts to the metric system any outstanding issues can be resolved.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I point out that I believe an answer of that length should have been given as a ministerial statement?

Mr. Cunningham: Now you tell him.

Mr. Speaker: That's all right. There is some delay, you know, caused by the interjections which I'm hearing now. We'll add one minute to the question period.

ARBITRATOR'S AWARD

Mr. Bounsall: A question of the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, Mr. Speaker: Will the minister or some senior representative of the Ontario government be appearing before the Anti-Inflation Board, if it's still in existence then, in support of the arbitration award for the technical services category of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, particularly inasmuch as the arbitration board and the arbitration procedures are creations of his government?

Hon. Mr. Auld: I doubt it, Mr. Speaker, but I will wait until we have seen all the awards.

WATER POLLUTION

Mr. Kerrio: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment, Mr. Speaker. Has he investigated the sources of polychlorinated biphenyls entering our municipal water treatment plants, and is the effluent discharge monitored at all to determine what's going into the waterways?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member may know, it's very difficult to detect PCBs in municipal water treatment plants, particularly the end result after treatment in a purification plant. The amount is infinitesimal and we're really having difficulty cataloguing any levels of PCBs in drinking water. The people in my ministry assure me there are no problems as far as PCBs are concerned in respect of treated water in municipal treatment plants. However, we keep a close watch on that, particularly in those municipalities on the shores of Lake Ontario.

Mr. Kerrio: Supplementary: I wonder then if we couldn't consider some licensing or monitoring of PCBs entering the system through dielectric fluids that are used in many areas of hydro transformers and capacitors. I wonder if those are being let into our system

and if there shouldn't be some licensing of large plants and Hydro toward controlling these PCBs at that level?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Those transformers and precipitators are some of the sources of PCBs. For example, when there is leaching from a dump containing that material, there could be problems. The problem has pretty well been eliminated because we now have only one such dump in Ontario, and it is only sort of a temporary dump. The PCBs are transported to New York State and there they are covered and contained by the manufacturer in the first place. The damage and the fact that we're getting high readings in some species of fish have been, I think, as a result of leaching and loss over a period of time. That is why we are finding those high levels now.

I think we have contained it. We know the source and are controlling it. We are properly disposing of it. Now the question is, if we don't have some type of improvement, possibly even that product in transformers will be prohibited from entering the country. I notice that Mr. Marchand made a statement in the last couple of days that the federal government is considering banning the use of PCBs which are being imported into the country.

Mr. Reed: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I think we have spent quite a bit of time on that. We are just about out of time. We have several more questions to be asked and answers to be given.

CATALYTIC CONVERTER

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, on March 18, the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) asked me a question relating to catalytic converters on 1976 General Motors passenger automobiles and the effect that overheating of these devices could have on people suffering from chronic bronchitis. I answered at the time that I would look into the situation and use whatever legislative remedy I had if I found it necessary.

The consumer protection bureau reports that we have had only one telephone inquiry about the alleged overheating problems of these catalytic converters, and no complaints. I have no information on file indicating that they are dangerous or hazardous, nor do I have any record of any complaints about them. We've asked the business practices division of our ministry to check further into the matter, but at this time I can't see any

further course of action that is open to us at the provincial level.

I would suggest to the hon. member that if he has evidence of the danger of these devices and their hazards, perhaps he could either bring that evidence to us or take his concerns to the hazardous products branch of the federal Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Is the minister aware that, notwithstanding the provisions of the Residential Premises Rent Review Act and the buildings that are currently available to and under construction for senior citizens, a great number of seniors across the province are having a great deal of difficulty making ends meet, particularly with regard to the rents that are being charged? When will the government bring in a proper rent subsidy programme in order to alleviate this problem?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member knows I am very well aware of the waiting lists that there are in Ontario today for senior citizen accommodation, and I think the hon. member, as well, is aware I have stated that we in the ministry are at present looking at the very method that we can find to provide a subsidized form of rent assistance to senior citizens. I don't know what the member would like me to respond further to. I've said that previously in public and on other occasions.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary question: Given that he has said it previously in public and nothing has happened, can the minister give us an indication of whether it is the intention—

Mr. Yakabuski: That is not right.

Mr. Deans: —of the ministry and the government to bring in such a programme at some time during this calendar year?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Perhaps the hon. member, when he becomes mayor of Hamilton, will be able to give instant solutions to difficult problems, but I can't do it instantly.

Mr. Deans: I might.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Is he thinking of running for mayor?

LOANS TO MILK PRODUCERS

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food: Why wouldn't the minister consider putting a moratorium on the repayment of principal and interest on IMPIP loans for the entire dairy year, 1976-1977, to help the milk producers over this particularly difficult time?

Mr. Roy: Good question.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, the member well knows how the programme works—I hope he does—

Mr. Bullbrook: Tell him he doesn't know anything about farming.

Hon. W. Newman: We put a stay on it until Sept. 1 for the simple reason that we are into our heavy production months, normally, in May, June, July maybe easing off a bit in August. If it is necessary to take any further action in September, we will have a look at it at that time.

I believe I have made three announcements and I announced they would not have to make their payments for four months to give them a chance to sort this matter out. Mr. Whelan made some recent announcement in Ottawa; I don't know what the final figures are going to be or what he is going to allow but he did make an announcement about two days ago. We're waiting to get some details of what he plans to do which I'm sure will alleviate some of the problems with some of the producers in this province.

The Ontario Milk Marketing Board is also looking at ways and means to try to help the producers of this province and is taking a very responsible attitude. The Ontario Milk Commission, as I told you the other day, and the Ontario Milk Marketing Board—both the full commission and board—will be meeting with me a week from tomorrow.

Mr. MacDonald: A supplementary of the minister: Since the effort of the Milk Marketing Board to reclaim quota from farmers who are going out of production, or planning to go out later, is not being effective with the incentive of three cents, is the minister giving any consideration to responding to the proposal of the government by adding an extra two cents as an incentive to get those quotas in so that they can be distributed to those who desperately need them for marketing their milk?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say to the hon. member that we are looking

at various alternatives. That's why we are meeting with the Milk Marketing Board and the Milk Commission. Looking at the member's suggestion to me today to add two cents to try to bring in more quota, I'm not sure it would be effective to pay the producer to get out now instead of in September; or whether we should be looking at those new producers who have a serious problem at this point in time and those other producers who came in about two years ago and were building their herds and who now have a serious problem.

There are various ways of looking at trying to help the producers in this province. I think Mr. Whelan made a step forward the other day, as I asked him to do when I asked him to reduce the 18 per cent cutback to six per cent at least until September when we will see what the weather conditions are like across Canada.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of the Environment has an answer to a question asked previously. There are just two minutes left; there are several people with questions—

Mr. Gaunt: This one is good.

Mr. Roy: The questions are a lot better than the answers.

Mr. Speaker: They are all good—sometimes.

WATER SUPPLY IN FRANKFORD

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond further to the question of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) concerning contaminated water wells in the township of Sidney. My earlier information to the hon. member was that seepage from silage on a neighbourhood farm and black liquid spread on the road as a means to control dust were believed to be the sources of contamination. In answering the hon. member on May 21 last I indicated that we had concluded that the source of contamination was black liquid. I based this reply on earlier reports which I had received.

As a result of further investigation, I have asked for a further report which is expected to be formalized and released within the next two weeks. However, I now find that I may have over-emphasized the importance of the black liquid.

My staff at the present time are looking into the possibility of an alternative water supply in the area of the affected wells. The ministry has drilled a new municipal well for

the adjacent village of Frankford which is located approximately 1,000 ft east of the affected homes.

A meeting has been held with Frankford to determine if these houses can be connected to this well. The municipality has indicated co-operation and a meeting will be held now with the township of Sidney in order to solve the problem. I hope to have a final report before the House rises.

Mr. Lewis: Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: The question period has expired.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

[3:00]

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I want to table a report of the Ontario Junior Farm Establishment Loan Corp. financial statements and report on the audit for the year ended March 31, 1976, and the 1975 report of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System.

ESTIMATES, OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

Mr. Lawlor from the standing administration of justice committee presented the following report:

That this committee stay further consideration of the estimates of the Ombudsman until a ruling of the law officers of the Crown, and the direction of the Legislature to establish the procedure to be followed, be forthcoming as to the jurisdiction of this committee to alter these estimates.

Mr. Lawlor: Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the administration of justice committee, I have been directed by the committee to report to the House on the motion passed by the committee on Monday.

The committee is asking for directions from this House, but before getting into what is requested, may I say that I wish to make a number of points. The members of the committee and this House are entitled to an explanation of why it is here today and not last Tuesday.

1. A chairman has, it seems to me, the responsibility to cause a committee to work as efficiently and harmoniously as possible. This requires, from time to time, consultation with numerous responsible officials and members of the Legislature, including the House leaders, in whom one must repose not

just confidence, but a spirit of solidarity, even when they are less than perfect.

2. As a result of the justice committee discussion of last Friday morning, and in order to obtain the greatest clarity in our position, I, as chairman, wrote a letter on Monday morning to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Ontario (Mr. McMurtry) requesting an opinion as to the status and range of jurisdiction of the administration of justice committee re the Ombudsman's office, from the law officers of the Crown, and to report that opinion back before the committee reconvened on Wednesday, June 9, 1976, Tuesday being an off day. In point of fact, the reply of the hon. Attorney General was delivered to my office on Tuesday afternoon, and I first saw it after question period that day. My letter was read to the justice committee on Monday afternoon and is on record in Hansard. The Attorney General's reply is as follows:

Mr. Patrick Lawlor,
MPP for Lakeshore.

You have asked for an opinion as to whether or not the justice committee can increase the estimates of the Ombudsman as presented to the committee. It is my opinion that the committee does not have jurisdiction to increase the estimates. The committee can approve the estimates in the amount as presented and, in reporting back to the House, request a message from the Lieutenant Governor recommending a supplementary estimate in the sum which the committee has determined as appropriate for the office of the Ombudsman.

This opinion is based on section 56 of the Legislative Assembly Act, which provides that the assembly shall not pass any vote for the appropriation of any part of the consolidated revenue fund to any purpose that has not been first recommended by a message of the Lieutenant Governor to the assembly. Section 56 is, in turn, similar to section 54 of the British North America Act, which applies the same rules to the Parliament of Canada. These provisions recognize the constitutional principle which vests in the Crown the sole responsibility for initiating expenditure and which forbids the Legislature and the Commons from increasing the sums demanded by the Crown for the service of the state. No amendment to the sum initially requested in the message from the Lieutenant Governor can therefore be proposed, whether by a minister of the Crown or by any other member, to increase the amount beyond the sum so specified in the estimate. If an in-

crease is necessary, the supplementary estimates must be presented subsequent to a new message from the Lieutenant Governor.

That's signed just "Yours truly"—not "very truly"; that disappoints me—"Hon. Roy McMurtry, Attorney General."

3. In the midst of our caucus on Tuesday morning I consulted with my House leader, and together we met with the government House leader (Mr. Welch) as to scheduling of debate in this House that day. But because Mr. Maloney would, in any event, be away for the rest of the week and could not reappear before the committee before Monday, June 14, 1976, and because we were waiting the reply of the Attorney General, and because the government House leader wished to consult with his peers, it was agreed not to proceed that afternoon but the next possible day, namely today.

I assume that this was communicated and agreed to by all responsible persons. Anyway, we are here. I think it fair to say that the committee was not abundantly clear as to what precise direction it is seeking.

The Ombudsman has submitted, and we have before us, his requested amount of \$3.221 million, and we have legally before us the government estimate of \$2.3 million. Everyone agrees that these are extraordinary and unique estimates, in that the Ombudsman's office is a creation of, and solely beholden to, the Ontario Legislature. And, of course, the committee is an emanation of it—and yet our hands are tied.

Under the provisions of the British North America Act, the Legislative Assembly Act, and rule 86 of the standing orders of this House, we may not increase the amount set forth in the estimates, and yet we feel that the committee, or some properly designated body, should have this authority. This is the basic problem on which we are seeking direction.

Speaking now, not as chairman of this committee, but as a member of the committee and of this House, as this may be my only opportunity, Mr. Speaker, so to do in the course of this debate, I have a few points to make under this head.

It seems to me the committee was imprecise as to what kind of direction to follow, and I thought maybe it would be helpful at some point to try to illuminate. It seems to me there may be several options, and I have four of them.

1. That this House give the administration of justice committee, through a government

resolution, on proper address, the power to review the figures submitted by the Ombudsman and approve or disapprove of them in whole or in part.

2. That this House send back the government estimates to the committee, which would then approve or disapprove of them in whole or in part, and make a recommendation back to this assembly, or to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, or to the government, as the committee saw fit. The committee could do this in any event, but it remains an option.

3. That this House send back the extant estimates to the justice committee, and that any excess be reviewed and determined by the Board of Internal Economy.

4. That the government, by resolution or otherwise, immediately appoint, and send both its estimates and the figures of the Ombudsman to, a select committee on the Ombudsman, with the fullest review powers.

My own feeling is that it is a very great shame that the government did not act on recommendation 5 of the report of the select committee on the Ombudsman, which report was submitted, I believe, before Christmas. The recommendation is as follows:

'The committee believes that a permanent committee of the Legislature should be established immediately so that it may review from time to time the following matters; (a) the reports of the Ombudsman as they become available from time to time; (b) the estimates of the Ombudsman; (c) the actions or lack of actions taken by those persons referred to in the Ombudsman's report, and report in connection with these matters to the Legislature from time to time.

I say it is regrettable that wasn't done. I think it should ultimately be done. We haven't time now, but in the fall I think that legislation should be reviewed and this power delegated to such a committee. It would have to report back to the government. It would be, in my opinion, the final word of government, as it must be under responsible government, to make the determination. But that committee should have the power, and I think that committee should be pretty well constituted along the lines of the Ombudsman's committee, which I think still exists in this Legislature and of which the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer) is the chairman.

However, that doesn't seem to be the lay of the land.

Mr. Nixon: Why not?

Mr. Lawlor: So it seems the other two options; and one of them is to send it back to the justice committee, and I as chairman am perfectly willing to accept it. This is what a number of the members of the committee wanted done, that we just go right ahead and review and make our recommendation to this House. We would present what would come out of those deliberations, not as a precedent for any other committee with this particular disposition of the matter. It seemed to me eminently sensible. We were voted down. So we are forced to come here.

As to the business of setting up a committee from the Board of Internal Economy, the third possible proposition, that seems to me the only feasible alternative at this time in our history.

Why? Well first of all, were the select committee on the Ombudsman to be re-appointed and given these widened powers in terms of reference, we have already got a select committee on corporations going forward immediately after this House adjourns, the people who would be the natural and the obvious appointees to that select committee on the Ombudsman are already pre-empted, by and large, into this other select committee. I for one do not wish to sit on two select committees, both at the same time, in the throes of the summer.

I think that's what should be done ultimately. I say in the interim and to get the Ombudsman—none of us are thoroughly aware of how much the pinch is on the Ombudsman, just how critical this is for the continuance of his office, just the extent to which these financial constraints are operating to cripple what he does.

[May I say, before I sit down, one final thing: It would be a very great shame indeed if these deliberations were interpreted in any way as maybe placing the Ombudsman under a shadow, much less putting him into the position of a political football. None of us can afford that, none of us want that. We have confidence in that office; we know that the Ombudsman cannot write a blank cheque on the government, we all accede to that. With that in mind I would caution the Legislature, and caution myself for that matter, not to say too much as to say anything that would be in the least questioning the dignity of that office which has an arm's length and an independent function.

As to the Board of Internal Economy, it is a bipartisan body of this House too and it is an arm's length body with respect to the operations of the Treasury board and to the government as a whole. The arguments seem

to fall into place, it's a logical matter in that particular context.

Let us not in any way derogate from the high status which we took so much trouble to afford to Mr. Maloney and to the office of the Ombudsman as such. That is what it tends to degenerate into and to be interpreted as. That is not the way it is, there was a simple failure in the executive legislation that brought this office into being with the consent of all members of this House, a defect of the legislation as to what the precise machinery for handling the matter was. We can rectify that; let us do so and let us still preserve the goodwill that exists on the part of the members of this assembly with the Ombudsman's office, and clarify it once and for all.

Mr. Bullbrook: Good speech.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, I have listened with substantial interest to the remarks of the hon. member for Lakeshore. I find myself in agreement with most of what he says but certainly not all of what he says.

Let me go back to the beginning. When this Legislature passed this statute, Bill 86, it was certainly in the mind of every member of the Legislature that the Ombudsman be independent of government, and be the servant of the Legislature not of the government. We said that in two sections of the statute: "Subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the Ombudsman may employ such officers and other employees as the Ombudsman considers necessary." In section 10, it says: "The salary of the Ombudsman and the expenses required for the operation are payable"—and I'm leaving out the line that takes it up to the end of March, 1976—"out of moneys appropriated therefor by the Legislature."

[3:15]

We did not talk and this Legislature did not speak about the Management Board of Cabinet on any of the financial arms of cabinet and we didn't speak about that rather unique body that has been set up, the Board of Internal Economy, which my colleague from Lakeshore chooses to say is bipartisan—or was it tripartisan? Some of us over here have some doubts about how partisan it is and whether it's unipartisan, bipartisan or tripartisan. We have very grave doubts about it. Our doubts are not cleared up by the fact that we get bulletins from them periodically and that they meet in camera regularly and we really don't know what they do. I for one, would not be content to refer these

estimates or any other estimates with any authority to this so-called Board of Internal Economy.

Mr. Renwick: Not so-called, it is established by statute.

Mr. Singer: That may well be, but I would not be content to do it, withstanding what the member for Riverdale says. I think this is the business of all of the members of the Legislature, not one or two or three. It is the business of all the members of the Legislature and it should be treated as such.

Let's go into the history of these estimates. Somebody decided that what the Ombudsman wanted and should get was not his original figure but \$2.1 million. I don't think that was even a bipartisan effort. It was a unilateral effort by the fellows over there who inhabit the front benches and who decided that that was a better figure.

Mr. Deans: That's not true.

Mr. Singer: Whether it's the right figure or the wrong figure, I don't know because I haven't as yet had an opportunity to listen to the Ombudsman and ask him why he wants as much money as he says he wants and come to my conclusion as to whether he needs it or not.

Subsequently, when the authority of whoever dealt with it the first time was questioned, it was dealt with the second time and brought up to \$2.3 million. The reasoning for that I don't know. I've heard, and these rumours sort of fly around, that time was running and the documents had to be printed and something had to come before the House and so somebody said, "Let's compromise, instead of \$3.2 million we'll make it \$2.3 million," and the documents went forward and there it was.

Mr. Deans: That's a lot of nonsense.

Mr. Singer: In any event, the method of dealing with it, insofar as I am concerned, was not what the Legislature intended when it passed this statute. I am not prepared as one member to delegate my duties, my responsibilities and my rights to one or two or three people of the House who can speak on my behalf on all occasions insofar as budgets are concerned.

If we are going to make this Ombudsman office work and we are going to ensure the kind of independence I thought we all felt we should ensure, then we must have another system. I share with the hon. member for Lakeshore his regret which he expressed of

my select committee on the Ombudsman when it recommended that a special select committee be established to deal with the estimates of the Ombudsman, but that recommendation was not taken up.

Mr. Bullbrook: It would have resolved the whole problem.

Mr. Singer: It would have resolved the whole thing. In its bumbling fashion the government, aided and abetted by some members of this House, has made this terrible mess, and it is nothing less than a terrible mess. Here we have a so-called impartial office, the budget for which is to be arranged by the Legislature and approved by the Legislature, and the whole thing is up in the air. We have this fascinating recommendation from the Attorney General who was asked for a recommendation. I don't think he should have been asked for a recommendation. Surely the standing committee on justice should have been able to determine where it was going to go. The member for Riverdale spoke a while back about section 54 of the BNA Act.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I wasn't asked for a recommendation.

Mr. Singer: Some of us have read the Legislative Assembly Act from time to time and can read it still. Surely it was not the function of the standing committee on justice to report to the Attorney General for a report and then to come up with a pallid recommendation saying, "Let's come back to the House and find out what we should do." Surely the direction has to be clear and straightforward; and surely it would make sense, since this session is rapidly drawing to a close—

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I think it should be pointed out that at no time was the Attorney General asked for a recommendation as to how the matter of the estimates should be handled. The Attorney General was simply asked a question as to whether or not the standing committee as constituted had the power by itself to vary the estimates. At no time was I asked for a recommendation, nor did I seek or wish to give a recommendation. It was strictly a legal opinion.

Mr. Singer: If I have offended the Attorney General by using the word "recommendation," let me remove the word "recommendation" and insert the word "opinion." As long as it's broad, Mr. Speaker, I tell you we are back into the position of being complete-

ly stymied, aided and abetted by all sorts of wonderful mechanisms that exist in this Legislature, which together have contrived to put us in the position where we don't know which direction we are going in. The solution was reasonably obvious immediately to the justice committee.

If I was going to start again from scratch, recognizing that we are in the position where most members of the House—perhaps exempting two or three—would like to get on with these estimates and have the House do its job as the statute says, this is the kind of thing I would talk about at this moment. We have the opinion of the law officers of the Crown, as expressed by the Attorney General—

Mr. Roy: Which has already been asked.

Mr. Singer: We recognize that there are certain provisions in the BNA Act and reflected in the Legislative Assembly Act. This kind of a suggestion, I think, would overcome all of these and restore the independence to the members of this Legislature over the Office of the Ombudsman which we tried to express when we passed the statute in the first instance. This is paramount; no one can derogate from this.

This is the way I would suggest it might be done: The members of the standing administration of justice committee—the members, not the committee—should be constituted as a special committee of the Legislature. We need a vehicle thereby to do this quickly. We have an existing standing committee. It is tripartisan; there are members of all parties on it. The appointment of it was agreed on by resolution of this House, so that its members can be reasonably regarded as being tripartisan. It operates openly, not in camera; any other member of the House can come in and take the opportunity to address it. The meetings are not held in closed rooms, behind closed doors. There are Hansard reports of it available.

These people could easily be made the representatives of this Legislature as individuals—and this is my next step—to consider immediately what estimates the Ombudsman may bring before them; not \$2.1 million, not \$2.3 million, not \$3.2 million, not \$9.8 million, but whatever estimates the Ombudsman chooses to bring before them. Those members, being constituted by the House for this purpose, would bring back a report on the conclusions they had come to and the recommendations they might make to this House, to the legislative assembly. Then, recogniz-

ing the concern of the member for Riverdale and the Attorney General about section 54 of the BNA Act and the appropriate section of the Legislative Assembly Act, the House, after dealing therewith, shall request the Lieutenant Governor in Council to recommend to the House by message—let the Attorney General note the wording; if it sounds familiar, he will find most of it in section 54 of the BNA Act—the opinion of this House in relation to the said recommendations.

In my opinion, were the House to act in this way, it would have restored its own integrity and its own independence; a group of representative members of the House would be able to listen to the Ombudsman's requests and examine him about them. It would be an expression of free opinion. It would be done in the open. It would be available to any members of this assembly who wanted to come in or out. A report would be made back to the House, the full House could then consider it, and a request could then be made to the Lieutenant Governor in Council to bring in a message. Then the true view of the members of this Legislature would be expressed.

I don't think its complicated. I think it's simple. I think it's obvious and it would be my urgent recommendation that this kind of step be taken.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I want to speak in this debate because the matter of the Ombudsman's estimates has been of grave concern to me for some considerable period of time. I never cease to be amazed at how the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer) can fabricate situations which are known to no other person in the world. I find his interpretation of what goes on around this Legislature is inevitably and, almost without exception, wrong. Again, he's wrong, as he was wrong the other day when we dealt with the same matter.

Mr. Singer: The resolution was torn up.

Mr. Deans: There was no resolution.

Mr. Singer: Oh, no.

An hon. member: Temper, temper.

Mr. Deans: There never was a resolution. When the member for Wilson Heights makes those kinds of statements it lowers him, not anyone else. He knows full well there was no resolution; I explained to him personally there was no resolution. If he continues to distrust what I'm saying to him, that's his problem not mine.

Mr. Warner: He's in a world of suspended animation.

Mr. Deans: The matters we have to concern ourselves with are, first of all, how did we get into the mess; and, secondly, how do we get out of it? I think both of those should be clearly understood by all members of the Legislature.

The Board of Internal Economy, when it was structured, had rather broad terms of reference and it was difficult to understand exactly what function it did have before it within its jurisdiction. As members of the Board of Internal Economy, we had referred to us last year the interim financial arrangements for the Ombudsman and we approved sums of money, by way of supplementary estimates, in order that the Ombudsman's office could be established and maintained.

There was no complaint from any member of the Legislature, not even the member for Wilson Heights, when the Board of Internal Economy did that. There wasn't even a complaint, incidentally, from the Ombudsman when the Board of Internal Economy did that.

I might say that the Board of Internal Economy is made up of representatives of each of the parties in the Legislature, including the Liberal Party. It's not my problem if the matters the board deals with are not adequately reported to the Liberal caucus.

Mr. Martel: They're too busy in the courts, some of them.

Mr. Deans: I want to read from the minutes of the Board of Internal Economy, which are available to any member of the Legislature. These are the minutes of March 11, 1976, and it says, "Decisions of the board." I read from page 2 of these minutes: "The board discussed a number of questions in connection with the estimates of the Ombudsman. Subsequently, on a motion by Mr. Breithaupt, seconded by Mr. Auld and unanimously agreed to, the board passed the following motion."

Hon. Mr. Welch: That's the board, not the cabinet.

Mr. Deans: The board. "Agreed that the question of jurisdiction in the matter of the estimates of the Office of the Ombudsman be turned over to the law officers of the Crown."

What we were asking for at that point, if I may stop and digress, was basically what was again asked for by the chairman of the administration of justice committee.

Mr. Haggerty: Did you get the answer from him? Where's the answer?

Mr. Deans: We got the answer. I'll come to that in a moment if you can just hold on.

Mr. Martel: Contain yourself.

Mr. Deans: The second point:

Agreed that the board seek clarification from the Lieutenant Governor in Council as to how the estimates of the Office of the Ombudsman should be reviewed prior to their submission to the Legislature and subsequently. Agreed that the board recommend to the Lieutenant Governor in Council that the authority given by section 8 of the Ombudsman Act, 1975, be examined by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and clarified with regard to the control mechanism to be employed by the Legislature in terms of establishing salaries, terms and conditions of employment, prior to the granting of approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Agreed that the board recommend to the Lieutenant Governor in Council that an agency outside the government examine such matters as salary classifications and levels of the Office of the Ombudsman and that these salaries or contractual agreements be equated with those of employees of the Ontario government in the Office of the Assembly.

[And the final point, and this is the important point:]

Agreed that the board recommend to the Lieutenant Governor in Council that in consideration of the facts that there appears to be no legally constituted body to exercise jurisdiction over the review of the estimates of the Ombudsman, and therefore no provision for the 1976-1977 estimates to go forward, the board recommends that an amount of \$2.3 million be placed in the 1976-1977 printed estimates of the government of Ontario for the Office of the Ombudsman so that the office will continue as is the intent of the Ombudsman Act, 1975.

[3:30]

Hon. Mr. Welch: That's the board, not the cabinet.

Mr. Deans: The board recommended that that money be placed there, subject to all of those other things that I mentioned.

Mr. Roy: Yes, but that doesn't make it right.

Mr. Deans: No, wait a minute. Wait a minute.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Then correct your colleague when he says that.

Mr. Deans: At this point I want to make it clear to the member for Wilson Heights that all moneys spent are appropriated for that purpose by the Legislature. That is all moneys—not only moneys spent by the Ombudsman. All moneys spent by anyone here, out of necessity, must be appropriated for the purpose by the Legislature. And so there's nothing unique about that phraseology within that particular Act. That is the case in every dollar spent. They must be appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose. So don't tell me there's something unusual or unique about this situation.

Mr. Haggerty: Or after it is spent.

Mr. Roy: Why are we looking at \$2.3 million?

Mr. Deans: The reason we're looking at \$2.3 million—and I'm going to come to that, now that the member has asked that.

Mr. Roy: That is for us to decide.

Mr. Deans: The reason we're looking at \$2.3 million, rather than \$3.2 million, is as follows. At the time the Ombudsman presented his estimates to the Board of Internal Economy, he did so in what I considered, in all fairness, to be somewhat less than complete form. There was very little justification, in the first instance, for any of the dollars asked for. We therefore asked the Ombudsman if he would mind going back and providing to the Board of Internal Economy some further outlined detail of what the moneys were to be used for; why he required that particular sum of money. We got it. Not nearly in the detail that's now before the committee, but we got additional details.

When we reviewed the salaries and wages that were presented to the Board of Internal Economy, we approved three of the matters that appeared before us without question. We questioned two of them. We questioned two of them, and said to the Ombudsman that we had some reservations about two matters that he had placed before us. On a subsequent day, and rather than attempt to justify the estimates, he came before the Board of Internal Economy with his legal adviser. His legal adviser was a Mr. Brian P. Goodman, who's a director of research for the Ombudsman's office.

Mr. Goodman proceeded on that day to point out to the Board of Internal Economy that he believed that the Board of Internal

Economy did not have the legal jurisdiction to deal with the matter at all.

Mr. Haggerty: And he is right.

Mr. Deans: Thank you. You're a big help and I appreciate the member sitting at the very far end.

Now, the board agreed with him that he was right.

Mr. Shore: And you must have been wrong.

Mr. Deans: Then the board was faced with a dilemma, because on that day the estimates were to be printed.

Interjections.

Mr. Deans: We then had to decide whether we were going to—

Mr. Singer: He just imagined all this, eh?

Mr. Deans: Wait a minute. We then had to decide whether we were simply not going to print any estimates for the Ombudsman at all, which would have meant that he couldn't have met his payroll; or whether we were going to print in the estimates book that amount which we had so far been able to justify.

Mr. Peterson: Just what I suspected. The printers are running this province.

Mr. Martel: Maybe you should tell the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) that. Yes, you just might.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. Order; this is a very serious debate. Will the hon. member be allowed to continue?

Mr. Deans: Now, I want to suggest to you that we therefore wrote a letter—the Board of Internal Economy wrote a letter—to the cabinet office. If I can find it, I can read it into the record.

Mr. Shore: We believe you so far.

Mr. Deans: Yes, you believe me. You can believe me.

Mr. Martel: It's too bad you wouldn't believe Breithaupt once in a while.

Mr. Shore: Don't you believe Breithaupt?

Mr. Nixon: A very reliable gentleman.

Mr. Deans: A letter was then written to the deputy minister and secretary of cabinet, Dr. E. E. Stewart, and I'll quote a small portion of it.

In consideration of the fact that there appears to be no legally constituted body

to exercise jurisdiction over the review of the estimates of the Ombudsman, therefore no provisions for 1976-1977 estimates can go forward, this board would recommend that an amount of \$2.3 million be placed in the 1976-1977 printed estimates of the government of Ontario, Office of the Ombudsman, pending clarification as to which committee or body should review the estimates of the Ombudsman prior to their submission to the Legislature and subsequently.

In other words, we were saying that as a result of the deliberations we had had up to that point, we were satisfied there was justification for \$2.3 million. But because the Ombudsman had chosen, quite rightly, to challenge the authority of the board to do it at all, we felt we could not proceed with any further deliberation with regard to any further justification.

Therefore, what we would recommend, pending this clarification, was that which we were satisfied was justifiable to that point and that at some future time the remainder would be reviewed by whoever it was decided had the authority. At that point the final figure would be arrived at. I hope that's helpful.

I want to say to the member for Wilson Heights the alternative to assuming that responsibility was to leave the Ombudsman without any money. Is that what the member is suggesting? That is exactly what he is suggesting.

Interjections.

Mr. Deans: That is the only alternative.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: I point out for the benefit of the member for Wilson Heights, that his colleague, his own House leader, took part in this discussion, approved it and, in fact, moved the motion.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Wilson Heights has had an opportunity to debate and the interjections are just confusing this very important issue.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Wentworth may continue.

Mr. Deans: I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that frankly I regret having to put this on the record in this way because I didn't think we were ever going to get to this level

in this Legislature. Unfortunately, it is dragged out of one by the the member for Wilson Heights because he makes statements which have absolutely no basis in fact.

I want to go on for a moment to say there never was any doubt—at least no doubt I am aware of—on the part of any single member of the Board of Internal Economy that the Ombudsman would subsequently receive some amount in addition to the \$2.3 million if, as and when the properly constituted body were identified and it had the opportunity to review the estimates. There never was any doubt—not in my mind; not in the mind of the member for Kitchener; and not in the mind of any other member of the board.

I want to point out also that the procedures we have been using in Ontario are not out of line with the procedures used in other jurisdictions. In Manitoba, the Ombudsman puts his estimates through the government; in Alberta, the Leader of the Opposition introduces the estimates of the Ombudsman. There is no tripartisanship there, or any other kind of partisanship.

Interjections.

Mr. Deans: Let me suggest this is what we need do: First of all, we have to determine the body which should, in the first instance, review the estimates of the Ombudsman for recommendation to the Legislature. Secondly—

Mr. Singer: You spotted that?

Mr. Deans: Yes. Strangely enough, although nobody may have thought about it, many of us have been trying to accomplish it for quite some time. The second point is that we have to establish a body which will have an ongoing review of the role and function of the Ombudsman.

I want to suggest that the administration of justice committee be instructed to go back and to deal with the estimate that it has before it; that the \$2.3 million, which is printed and available for perusal and discussion, should be considered by the administration of justice committee forthwith; and it should deal with that in the same way it deals with any other estimate placed before it. I want to suggest that there should be a procedure now established by the Legislature for the review not only of the Ombudsman estimates but for the initial review of the estimates of all of those bodies which are considered to be answerable to the Legislature alone, rather than ministerial responsibilities. Those bodies are as follows: The

Office of the Provincial Auditor, the Office of the Assembly, the Office of the Chief Election Officer, the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses, the Office of the Speaker and the Office of the Clerk.

Further, since there is no way now of properly regulating select committee operations in terms of their expenditures and approvals of budgets, and by some mystical means moneys seem to appear and are spent, that operation should be included in any review that should be undertaken. The Clerk says it should be through the Office of the Assembly. I think we should make it clear that select committees, once established, should set up a budget and that budget should contain within it the expenses they intend or anticipate incurring and there should be approval then given to them to proceed with their undertakings and that should also be done by an independent body.

I would suggest that the Board of Internal Economy is properly constituted and an adequate body to deal with this matter. I would suggest to the Board of Internal Economy, if it were dealing with all of these things, as it is now anyway, it would then have the expertise at its fingertips to make the kinds of comparisons between salaries and benefits, expenses incurred, costing of accommodations and costing of rentals that would be necessary in order to determine whether or not one budget was in keeping or within general reason of another set of budgets submitted by other groups.

I think that the Board of Internal Economy is the proper body to deal with that. It is, to the greatest extent possible in a political arena, nonpartisan. It has dealt that way almost throughout until very recently, until certain members seem to feel there are things going on that they don't understand. It's amazing how when you don't inquire into something you never will understand it.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, to you and to the House, that we should at some point give consideration to establishing these two directions. One, the Board of Internal Economy should be given by direction of the House the authority to review prior to printing and submission to the Legislature the requested estimates of the offices I have mentioned, including the Ombudsman's office. Two, we should set up this ongoing committee that will conduct the review of the role and function of the Ombudsman on a day-to-day basis whenever called upon to do so. If we were to do that we would no longer be faced with the dilemma we are now faced with.

I want to say before I close, that there has never been any intention to downgrade the role of the Ombudsman, but there is no one in Ontario who can draw a blank cheque on the government—not even the Ombudsman. Someone must have some responsibility for reviewing with him the expenditures that he or his office feels are necessary.

I don't think that it is a practical proposition to place it before a standing or select committee prior to printing. I don't think it is a practical proposition to think that the Legislature as a whole, given all of the politicking that necessarily has to go on, would be able to deal fairly with the nitty-gritty expenses of running an administrative office. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that the format I set out might be one that should be considered by the House for adoption.

Mr. Roy: May I make, just briefly, some remarks pertaining to the report of the House. I will start by saying to my colleague who just spoke, the member for—where is it again? My God, I always get mixed up in his riding.

Mr. Bain: You always get mixed up.

Mr. Roy: It is the member for Wentworth. I think all of us here agree that there is no agency and there is no individual in this government who can proceed, especially in a period of restraint, on the basis of a blank cheque. I think all of us here are concerned about expenditures and surely the members in this party—in fact, we fought the election in 1975 on the basis of restraint—so we are not—

[3:45]

Mr. Bain: And you did so well!

Mr. Roy: Yes, we did well. Compare the statistics.

Mr. Nixon: We got 200,000 more votes than you did.

Mr. Bain: If you do any better you'll be wiped out.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Roy: If I were you I would just keep quiet and keep my fingers crossed that I would be around here again. That's what I would do if I were you.

Mr. Bain: For what? To listen to you?

Mr. Roy: You know, these characters really should be taking pictures of each other—

Mr. Speaker: Let's not digress too far, please. The hon. member for Ottawa East will keep to the debate at hand. Thank you.

Mr. Roy: —because most of them will not be back.

Mr. Bain: Those behind you won't be back?

Mr. Roy: I think we are concerned about restraint which the member for Wentworth talked about.

Mr. Deans: I didn't say a word about restraint.

Mr. Roy: But on the other hand, it seems to me the comments he has made about the approach taken by the Board of Internal Economy, as I think it's called, are not exactly what we've been reading about over the past three or four months. I recall some comments, I think made by the member about the Office of the Ombudsman and about the fact that he did not have a blank cheque, that somebody should be looking at what he is doing, that he is setting up sort of a Taj Mahal operation out there, and this type of thing. These comments were made by various members. I hate to have to start searching—

Mr. Deans: On a point of order, I request, in fact I demand that the member for—

Mr. Shore: Start with a request and see how that works.

Mr. Deans: —Ottawa East produce whatever document it is that he claims he is either quoting from or referring to.

Mr. Singer: He didn't say he was quoting from anything.

Mr. Roy: I am not quoting.

Mr. Deans: Then, on a point of order, if you're not quoting, withdraw the statements.

Mr. Roy: Oh look, I don't need technical advice from a so-called expert on this.

Mr. Deans: If you are going to be like your colleague from Wilson Heights and just make things up as you go along, fair ball. But at least admit to it.

Mr. Shore: You made something, you made something.

Mr. Roy: I find it ironic to hear from that member about consistency. We have heard in the past in this House about his consistent approach.

Mr. Deans: It has nothing to do with consistency.

Mr. Roy: Probably if I was to look at the newspapers I would see the earlier comment.

Mr. Deans: Are you going to talk the truth or a lot of rot?

Mr. Speaker: Could we get on with the debate in question, please?

Mr. Roy: If I could get back on stream, Mr. Speaker, and—

Mr. Bain: You are never on stream.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Roy: —hopefully not have to suffer the interjections and the slings and arrows from the people on that side, of outrageous fortune—shall I go on? The fact remains that there was comment made by certain members of the Legislature, and I say they included the member for Wentworth, about the operation of the Ombudsman. I say his approach today about the whole basis of the cutbacks by the Board of Internal Economy was one that was done for the very purpose of getting the thing to the printers and approving something now, so that maybe we can get back with supplementary estimates on that.

Mr. Deans: Don't be silly.

Mr. Roy: I say his suggestion is not an appropriate one. The Ombudsman is a servant of all of us and not of three of us, and that is our concern. The suggestion made by my colleague from Wilson Heights seems to me the proper approach, that the standing justice committee be the one to look at the amount first. In my opinion, it is not up to a committee of three. As objective as they might be, as nonpartisan as they might be, it is not up to them to decide the amounts of money that the justice committee or any other agency or any other representative of this House is going to look at. I don't think it is up to them.

The reason for it is what we say in the Act. We talk all over in the Act about how the Ombudsman is in fact the servant of the Legislature. I just look, for instance, at section 4 of the Act which says, "He is removable at any time for cause by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the address of the assembly." Section 6(2) of the Act says that even the salary of the Ombudsman "shall not be reduced except on address of the assembly." My colleague from Wilson

Heights has talked about section 8 and has also mentioned section 10.

This is why it seems to me the suggestion made by the members of the standing administration of justice committee should be supported—that it be constituted as a special committee of this Legislature to consider what estimates the Ombudsman may choose to bring before it and to report thereon its conclusions and recommendations to this House. Of course, the second part of the recommendation is to satisfy the requirements of section 54 of the BNA Act and probably section 56 of the Legislative Assembly Act.

Our concern is this, Mr. Speaker, if I can express it very briefly. It seems to us that it is not for three people, again—I don't want to attribute any motives, I don't want to make any accusations whatsoever—

Mr. Deans: Don't say anything to me, Albert. You don't understand.

Mr. Roy: I'm prepared to say to you, I'm prepared to say to the member for Wentworth, that he is attempting to act in an objective fashion. He shouldn't be so sensitive. How long have you been in politics now? Don't be so sensitive.

Mr. Deans: I'm not sensitive. I just think your colleague is reprehensible.

Mr. Roy: I'm trying to give you a few marks and trying to tell you that you are an objective individual. But as objective as you may be, and our colleague from our caucus may be and the House leader may well be, it is not up to three people to make decisions which are not public—

Mr. Deans: The decisions are public.

Mr. Roy: —to have discussions, to make reviews, which in fact are not public.

Are we invited to this? Is the general public invited to this? Is the press invited to this? I say not so, Mr. Speaker. I think that these original discussions about the moneys for the Ombudsman should take place openly among members of the justice committee.

The second thing that should happen, and which we're concerned about, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that a precedent may well be created by the approach taken at this time. We're saying that is not the proper approach. I think it is the business of all members of the Legislature to look at these estimates and not the business of three people. It is not the business of three people to say that the estimates that we're going to look at, in fact

are going to be \$2.3 million instead of \$3.2 million. I think it is not their business.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, that the suggestion made is a good one. It may well be that there are other ramifications, but for God's sake let's get on with this, let's have something set up now and let's proceed; and thirdly let's not tie the hands of the Ombudsman and make his operation, or his efficiency, subject to a limited number of individuals in this House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before the next speaker begins, the hon. member for London North (Mr. Shore) has indicated that he would like to speak for about a minute. He has to get away on something else.

Mr. Deans: That's his problem.

Mr. Speaker: May we allow him to speak next?

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I would be delighted to yield the floor to the hon. member for London North.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for London North then.

Mr. Shore: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and my thanks to the member for Riverdale.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to put on the record that I think, in view of the timing factor that we're facing here, I would support the recommendation of my colleague and others that it go to the standing administration of justice committee at this time. But I think I would like to put on the record that it's not totally unbiased—

Mr. Lawlor: We haven't got time.

Mr. Shore: —because that committee is substantially made up of solicitors. I think it should be recognized that whether we like it or not there is an automatic bias, in my opinion, by having that committee substantially made up of counsellors or solicitors when reviewing these estimates.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: That is where the criticism is coming from, the solicitors.

Mr. Shore: Therefore, I think in the long run—

Mr. Peterson: Are you biased against us?

Mr. Shore: —this body would be more objective, in my opinion, if it were made up of a cross-section of the Legislature as opposed to what is obviously the make-up of that standing committee as presently constituted.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, a number of things have been said and I'm going to try not to be repetitious. I would say to the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer), and to his colleagues, that whatever merit there may have been in his recommendation was certainly destroyed by the total inaccuracy of the comments made by all of the speakers, barring the last one, from the Liberal Party.

Mr. Roy: We are going to get the facts from you, are we?

Mr. Renwick: First of all, without repeating the sections verbatim, we are all operating within the framework of section 54 of the British North America Act as it is made applicable to this assembly by section 90 of the British North America Act. So within that framework, I would like, gracefully I hope, to disengage myself slightly from my colleague the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Lawlor) on the question of the Camp commission. I do not agree with the recommendation of the Camp commission. I'm glad it hasn't been implemented and my own present view is that I would not like to see it implemented.

There is no merit at all in the position put by the member for Wilson Heights when he refers to that section of the Ombudsman Act dealing with moneys appropriated by this assembly. All moneys are appropriated for government by this assembly. There is no way in which one can make a valid distinction between those words as used in the Ombudsman Act and the normal everyday procedures by which moneys are appropriated for the purposes of government by this assembly after the recommendations have been received and the estimates have been tabled by the appropriate minister or ministries of the Crown.

The third point that I would like to deal with, perhaps at some length, is the basis of the Board of Internal Economy. For some reason or other, there is a misapprehension about the nature of that board, its composition, its status, its stature and the purpose for which it was intended. I simply would like the assembly to refresh their minds by pointing out that in the Legislative Assembly Act of the Province of Ontario, which governs this assembly and by which statute the Speaker is responsible for its administration, there was established a Board of Internal Economy, composed of the Speaker, who is the chairman, three commissioners appointed by the government from amongst the ministers of the Crown and three other commissioners, one from each of the three caucuses in the assembly.

That's a significant committee. It has statutory authority. It is chaired by the Speaker of the assembly and it is composed of representatives from all of the parties, with appropriate weight being given to the representation by the government on that committee. In fact, it is one of the few committees on which ministers of the Crown sit, and they sit there because it is important. It is one of the delights of the minority government situation that, in fact, the status of that Board of Internal Economy has been enhanced rather than detracted from during the course of the life of this particular assembly. Therefore, it seems to me that it is singularly appropriate that an office such as the Office of the Ombudsman, for the purpose of its budgetary considerations, should be dealt with by that Board of Internal Economy.

Up to the present time, the Board of Internal Economy has not sat publicly. There is certainly no statutory requirement for it to sit either in camera or in public. There is provision for it to establish its own rules and procedures. I have never had occasion to inquire whether I could go in and sit down, but I think it's unlikely that I would be thrown out. If I wanted to go and observe what was taking place or to address myself to that committee, I am quite certain that the courtesy would be extended to me if I so requested, and I assume it would be the case with every other member of the assembly.

Mr. Roy: I suppose that's the attitude you take when you want legislation to be discussed in public, is it? You don't leave it up in the air though.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: It seems to me that when we have established a Board of Internal Economy under the Legislative Assembly Act to deal with the functionings of this assembly, then all of the officers and offices of the assembly are very appropriately subject, for budgetary purposes—and I want to emphasize that; for budgetary purposes—to the Board of Internal Economy.

I happen to be one of the people who believe that the substance of the Office of the Ombudsman is far more important than the budgetary aspects of it. I am very concerned, and I expressed my concern on Friday of last week, that in our relationship with the Ombudsman, being an office constituted by and through this assembly and for this assembly, I don't want to be engaged in dealing in dollars with the Ombudsman. I want to be talking about the substance of his office.

Is he accomplishing the purposes and objectives that we established for him? Is he, in fact, maintaining the kind of protection for the citizen in the face of a bureaucratic structure of government at the present time? Those are the kinds of things I want to talk about.

Mr. Roy: That's a bit idealistic, isn't it?

[4:00]

Mr. Renwick: I think that is quite different from dealing with the estimates of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, the Ministry of Government Services or any other ministry.

I think it happens to be a very significant distinction in my own mind. I don't think there is anything secret about the estimates of the Office of Ombudsman that is taken away by it being dealt with by the Board of Internal Economy. The estimates are published; they are placed before the assembly; they will be referred by this assembly—if the Board of Internal Economy is the board it is going to, and I hope it is—to that board for consideration. They will come back to this assembly and will go forward to the government presumably for whatever recommendation it wants to make in accordance with the constitution of the country.

I cannot hang very much on the argument that somehow or other the Board of Internal Economy, with the nature and structure we have established for it, is some kind of cabal of two or three people who meet in private and have no sense of responsibility.

Just as I do not want to see the Office of the Ombudsman denigrated, I certainly don't want to see the Board of Internal Economy, as a structure of this assembly, denigrated in any way. That was one of the bad things which has taken place over the last while as a result of this unfortunate confusion for which we have only ourselves to blame.

I don't think there is any problem in our referring it to the Board of Internal Economy. I don't think there is any prohibition against it because of the statute. I think we can refer to it whatsoever we wish to refer to it.

I think probably that's all I have wanted to say about it. I do want to speak in a slightly broader ambit because we have discussed this matter in our caucus and we are in agreement, in our caucus, that we would be happy to see the various offices of the assembly—the ones listed by my colleague—go to the Board of Internal Economy. I think it would be first class that the estimates of the Auditor who, for example, is an officer of this assembly, should go there; and the ones

to which my colleague has referred and which are now listed in Hansard and I need not repeat.

I do want to say that it arose out of concern expressed by the member for Wilson Heights in his capacity as chairman of the select committee dealing with the insurance business which has just recently been established that, in ruminating on it, I mentioned to the House leader of our party, the member for Wentworth, that I felt it was about time that the select committees and their budgetary requirements, their expenses and proposed expenditures and so on, should go to the Board of Internal Economy. For some reason or other this immense cloak of secrecy is hung. In all of the select committees which I have sat on during the course of my time in the House, I have never known what the fees paid to counsel were. I have never known what fees were paid to any consultants who were hired. I have never known anything about any of the travelling expenses which were incurred other than what I have seen published a year or two later in the estimates or in the public accounts when they come through.

Mr. Singer: You will on this committee.

Mr. Renwick: I think it is very wise—the select committee on company law, the select committee on highway safety and the select committee on the trucking industry in the province, I think, will be a good starting point for us to see that the budgets of those committees are regularized and compared through the Board of Internal Economy. I think it would be most helpful.

I am not interested in going into the history—people's accounts have been paid; they have done their work and it is all over—I am not interested in finding out what was the history of these various things. I do think the Board of Internal Economy can do a first-class job in comparing the budgets and making certain that the fees paid to counsel are somewhat in line; that the consultant fees are in line; that there's real public disclosure about what the select committees should be doing. I'm pleased to understand from my colleague, the member for Wentworth, our House leader, that if and when the government introduces the motion about this matter they may well include in it the general budgetary supervision of the select committees of the assembly.

With those comments in mind, rather than not being the appropriate body or being a second best, I think the Board of Internal Economy is an eminently proper body to deal

with the budgetary requirements of the Office of the Ombudsman and to deal with the other items which have been listed by my colleague, the member for Wentworth. Our caucus has come to the agreement that we would support such a motion, if put by the government House leader. The House leader of this party would be delighted and pleased to second that motion, should the government decide to proceed in that way, and I hope it will.

Mr. Singer: There is a great cabal, in secrecy.

Mr. Renwick: My last word, and I say it partly in jest, and partly in seriousness, is that if we appoint the Board of Internal Economy as a watchdog, I don't know who will watch the watchdog and the expenses which will be incurred by members of the Board of Internal Economy travelling as they must in the duties of their office as members of that board. But presumably we could perhaps appoint a special select committee to review the budgetary requirements of the members of the Board of Internal Economy.

Hon. Mr. Welch: And their budgets would be checked by the Board of Internal Economy.

Mr. Renwick: Yes, I would think so.

Mr. Singer: You could have a second body do that, with closed meetings and also authority to travel.

Mr. Renwick: I think it is extremely important that the Office of the Ombudsman have available to it a very small committee representative of all parties in the House of members who can work closely with the Ombudsman about his work—not about his finances—so that he will feel that he's not just presenting an annual report or the occasional special report, but that he's got a group of people, members of the assembly, with whom he can consult from time to time on an ongoing basis as he runs into a problem of one kind or another, as he needs to consult, to exchange views and to toss around matters which may be of concern to him in a very informal but very practical way. I think that would in some way carry out part of what I think many of us felt was the spirit with which the relationship between the Ombudsman and the members of this assembly should be imbued in order that the Ombudsman can carry out his work.

With those comments, I hope this matter will be soon and finally resolved.

Mr. Peterson: May I just address my mind to just some of the issues hit upon by my

friend to the right. It seems to me it's indicative of some of its judgements that the Board of Internal Economy has manifested already that it would have taken these judgements on itself unilaterally. We've ended up to a large extent in the mess that we're in today because of the conflict, because of the power taken unilaterally by this Board of Internal Economy.

Hon. Mr. Welch: That's not fair.

Mr. Deans: That's not accurate or fair.

Mr. Peterson: I can't see that that is their jurisdiction. Because there is no legislative provision for this particular contingency, it was taken on the Board of Internal Economy as a catch-all. It seems to me that it doesn't necessarily fall into any categories that they've heretofore handled or should be handling.

Mr. Deans: That's another matter.

Mr. Peterson: I want to express my point of view, Mr. Speaker, if I may. I think we are dealing with an absolutely, totally unique situation, a unique animal. I think we have an obligation to treat it specially and make sure it's responsible only to the Legislature through the special committee. My understanding of that special committee report, signed by my friend from Lakeshore and the member for Riverdale, is that it at that time contemplated having a special committee to work with the Ombudsman as well as work with the estimates. I trust my facts are right on that particular matter.

I don't understand the delicacy of my friend, the member for Riverdale, about discussing matters of money with the Ombudsman. It seems to me that that is what we are involved in on a daily basis here. We are forced daily to make judgements about the worth of programmes, and some are financial and some are of other types. Lots of them deal with civil rights or human rights, or whatever. We are always involved in those judgements, and it seems to me that that committee he has talked about that should supervise the Ombudsman is the one that would be most sensitive to the needs and to all of the kinds of things that the Ombudsman is involved in on a daily basis. I would say to him, as I say to the minister, that the committee need have no embarrassment or none of this new-found delicacy about discussing matters financial with the Ombudsman.

Having sat in committee sessions and seen some of the confusion that has developed on

this particular situation, I think that we have set back the cause of creating the Ombudsman in the kind of role that we want him. I think we've already set that back to some degree. I think that we all have a responsibility to build his image in order to play the kind of role in the Province of Ontario that he was intended to create.

Therefore, I think that there is only one way to do that on an ongoing basis. I respectfully submit to the minister that the way to do it is to have a special all-party committee, as non-partisan as possible, to deal with the Ombudsman, and to assist in all relations with the Legislature at all times.

I can't see that the Board of Internal Economy is the group that takes this responsibility on itself at this time. I respectfully submit that that is one of the reasons that we are into this confusion today; why we are having a debate today while we went through two or three wasted exercises because nobody knew the correct jurisdiction.

Ultimately, it seems to me that there has been a problem of bad drafting on that bill. That is something that we can solve here. And I see no problem with that. But I respectfully say that my colleague's suggestion about how to handle the situation in the short run is the appropriate one, and is the one to which we should subscribe to at this time. I am more concerned about creating the proper vehicle on an ongoing basis to handle this in order that we don't take up the time of the members of this House, or create any more confusion than we've done already.

Therefore, I would respectfully submit, Mr. Speaker, just in closing, that I think the original intention as I understand it of the Ombudsman's committee, was to create this kind of committee to whom he would be responsible. Why the government failed to bring that in, I must confess I will never know. But I would think that we should look back at that and look to the future, and let us always avoid the situation where we are in a conflict with the Ombudsman from any legislative way.

We have seen situations arise in the last six months where there could potentially have been a conflict between the government and the Ombudsman. There are going to be serious questions of jurisdiction that are going to need everybody's assistance and good feelings and good faith to solve. I think that anything we can do to make him totally independent, absolutely totally as independent as possible of the government, then we are serving him well—we are serving the cause well.

That is why I would say to you, Mr. Speaker, the only solution to the situation is an independent committee, as nonpartisan as we can possibly make it, selected from the best members of this House. I would respectfully submit some of those members are ones who have spoken today, who are watching with him and working with him and trying to evolve the process into the kind of process we want to see.

That is why I have to support in the short run the suggestion of my colleague from Wilson Heights. I think that will solve the problem quickly now. I think in the long run we have to have a different solution.

Hon. Mr. Welch: This very worthwhile discussion has been prompted, of course, by the communications from the administration of justice committee, who are now looking for some direction with respect to this matter. At this hour I don't want to repeat all of the historical material which is now on the record or, indeed, to reconsider that. It is interesting in listening to the discussion, however, that there is some general agreement on many points, and that we have an honest difference of opinion as to what the solution is.

It is obvious, if one looks at the record just to make it clear, that if one looks at Votes and Proceedings No. 21, dated for Wednesday, April 14, one would see there a record of the motion referring the estimates of the Ombudsman to the administration of justice committee. I mean there's no question as to how the estimates got to the administration of justice committee, the Legislature sent them there.

[4:15]

The estimate that went to the committee was not the estimate, and I say this to correct the record once again, it was not the estimate established by the cabinet of this province but was the figure which in fact had been established, as the member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans) indicated, by the Board of Internal Economy which is an all-party committee. Notwithstanding, and let me be—

Mr. Singer: With three cabinet ministers.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It was unanimously agreed and the member for Wentworth explained how those calculations were arrived at. There was some question with respect to jurisdiction, one is not disputing this now. One is not disputing the fact a great deal of confusion has arisen. One can speculate as to whether that confusion would have arisen, or jurisdiction would have been questioned,

had in fact the amount recommended been different. All these matters are fairly academic at this point. There is no disagreement, in anything I have heard today, with respect to the direct accountability which the Ombudsman has to the House and that he is a servant of the Legislature; and we use other offices to indicate this.

There is no question with respect to the fact that we have to regularize some procedure for the estimate of the Ombudsman to go from his office to be reviewed in some way—and there is where there is some difference as to what way—and ultimately to be tabled by a minister in this House in accordance with all the precedents and tradition.

I also make some reference to Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, Dec. 11 of last year, when the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Singer) reported from the select committee which was appointed earlier to consider and set out general rules and guidelines for the guidance of the Ombudsman. The committee indicated it wanted a little more time, in fact there is some mention in this report that not later than June 15 they would be able to report more specifically with respect to some matters. There is some reference—

Mr. Singer: Oh no, no.

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, that was a recommendation. That was not a continuing committee, the committee was functus as of the time it made its report. That report also was signed by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick); he forgot about that.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think the point I really wanted to make was there was some reference in that particular report—to support what the member for Riverdale has just completed saying very well—to the need for a permanent committee representative of all parties, to be available to review those matters to which reference has been made.

Now it was our opinion, notwithstanding the fact that there was some difference of opinion with respect to jurisdiction, that the simplest way to resolve all this and to get on with the work, would be for the House to ask the administration of justice standing committee to review those estimates presently before them in the amount that we are talking about, the \$2.3 million or whatever—is that the amount?—the \$2.3 million. Then for the other matters, if in the opinion of the committee and the Ombudsman there is some need to review additional requirements, the vehicle for this would be the Board of In-

ternal Economy along the lines that have just been mentioned.

I would sense, at this stage Mr. Speaker, that the House would want to reflect upon the discussion we have had today, to provide us with opportunity to serve notice of motion, because I think, really, we would want some notice with respect to the motions that would come before the House early next week.

As far as our caucus is concerned, we would be inclined to agree with the suggestion from the official opposition that we in fact regularize the procedures as indicated in that way, referring to the Board of Internal Economy the estimates of all officials who are directly accountable to the House. Included in that, of course, would be the interesting observation which has already been made with respect to the budgets of select committees. Recognizing the objectivity of that particular board, chaired as it is by you, Mr. Speaker, we think this would help to clear up a lot of the confusion. The House would determine the jurisdiction, because that motion would be debated here, and whatever procedures are to be followed would have been established by the House as the vehicle.

Now I do remind ourselves that there doesn't seem to be any disagreement, except on some matters of fact; but as far as the principles involved here are concerned, there is very little disagreement on what we have to accomplish. The difference of opinion seems to be with respect to the procedures—whether it be the Board of Internal Economy or whether it be some other committee to be established.

For the immediate solution I would see that we would indeed ask the Board of Internal Economy to discharge this responsibility; that the House regularize it and I would hope to file a notice of motion so that we could proceed with that next week.

I think the debate, the discussion, has been very helpful. It helps to clear the air. I think all members of the Legislature would want to associate themselves with all comments which have been made with respect to confidence, both in the office and the incumbent. I think the incumbent, as a great student of democratic systems, would be the first to admit that there has to be some procedures; there has to be some accountability in our system of government with respect to the spending of public money. Nobody has been raising these questions to infringe in any way upon the scope of the authority which the Legislature has assigned to the Ombudsman. I would hope that we could get on, clarify this situa-

tion and get the matter regularized in some form.

Perhaps at this stage we might indeed assume that we have discussed the question that's been referred to us. We will file our motion and we can deal with it the first part of the week.

Mr. Lawlor: Mr. Speaker, we came here for directions. If it's humanly possible I want to have that motion filed forthwith. Do we or do we not go back into session downstairs with the Ombudsman?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I've worked on a certain assumption that I could not get unanimous consent to proceed with the motion this afternoon referring the matter to the Board of Internal Economy. If, for instance, there was that unanimous consent, we could debate it now.

It was my assumption that on the basis of this discussion we would file such a motion and we would carry it next week, assuming that we and the official opposition caucus voted for it. In the meantime, the administration of justice committee has now started the estimates of the Solicitor General—

Mr. Lewis: We will not turn back on that commitment.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —and it will carry on with the estimates of the Solicitor General until such time as they are completed. Then, assuming that this motion will be carried, the committee will resume its consideration of the estimates of the Ombudsman along the lines that the motion would indicate.

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, we are not really on second reading so I don't think the ordinary rules apply and one should be able to speak more than once. I don't intend to be repetitive.

If the minister was asking for unanimous consent, he will not have it. I have grave doubts about the appropriateness of allowing a committee which has three cabinet ministers on it to meet in private and determine something as important as this. I have grave doubts as to the legality of this procedure, bearing in mind what we provided in chapter 116 of the statutes of 1974.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I presume we're not going to debate this because there's nothing before the House to debate in that respect right now.

Mr. Singer: No. I was just commenting, Mr. Speaker, that if the minister is moved to bring in a motion along the lines he indicated

he would be well advised to look at that statute, particularly section 74 of it, and find out whether he has the jurisdiction to do what he proposes to do.

Mr. Renwick: Certainly.

Mr. Singer: I don't know who advises this mysterious board which meets in secret but they've already stubbed their toes several times. I'm surprised, really, that the member for Riverdale, who obviously has led this insurrection, should be among those who foremost and most vehemently—

Hon. Mr. McKeough: He is, all the time. We all know him.

Mr. Singer: —urge that affairs of the Legislature be determined in camera. I'm very surprised and shocked at him.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. I think any motion can be debated at that time if there's a need for it.

Mr. Renwick: On a point of order, in connection with this. I think, in order to assist my colleague, the chairman of the standing committee on the administration of justice, we could break it into two parts. We would be quite happy now to entertain a motion, if unanimous consent was available, to refer the \$2.3 million estimates which were originally before the standing committee—

Mr. Singer: That is the motion which didn't exist.

Mr. Renwick: —back to that committee for its consideration in order that those estimates could be dealt with the same as any other estimates.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, if I may speak to the point of order, I take it from the interjection of the member for Wilson Heights that we would not have unanimous consent even for that.

Mr. Singer: That is the whole point which is at issue.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I do remind the House and I've already put on record that this House has already referred the estimates of the Ombudsman to the administration of justice committee. The confusion seems to be whether or not it is \$2.3 million or some other figure. I would remind them that as far as the estimates—

Mr. Peterson: Who has the power to initiate it?

Mr. Renwick: It is just a transposition.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I would think under the circumstances—

Mr. Singer: What difference does it make?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I will continue on the point of order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the hon. House leader.

Hon. Mr. Welch: In view of the fact that we will bring the motion in in a regular way, at the moment the administration of justice committee has started the estimates of the Solicitor General and there is no reason why it can't continue with those estimates and the House next week can regularize the question of the Ombudsman. We will await the motion then at the first of the week.

Mr. Lawlor: Mr. Speaker, may I just say a word on this as it is important?

Mr. Speaker: Very briefly.

Mr. Lawlor: As far as I am concerned, we reject that proposition. If it is sent back to our committee at \$2.3 million or any other point, we will go right through the same imbroglio and rigmarole and motions in the committee to go wherever we want to go and to reach some figure and refer it to the House. I don't think it should go back to committee until the problem, as put before us today, is resolved.

Mr. Renwick: I agree.

Hon. Mr. Welch: That is agreed.

Mr. Singer: Either \$3.9 million or \$9.3 million.

Mr. Renwick: It sounds very sensible.

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Introduction of bills. The hon. Treasurer.

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH PLANTAGENET ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act respecting the Township of North Plantagenet.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The township of North Plantagenet is in the county of Pres-

cott and Russell, so well represented in this House by the member from that area. This bill will authorize the construction and financing of certain drainage works which have been completed or are under construction in the township for which Municipal Board approval was not first obtained.

CITY OF THUNDER BAY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the City of Thunder Bay Act, 1968-1969.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Stokes: Are those hydro bills?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: This bill clarifies the title of real property as being in the name of the city of Thunder Bay but with the control of its disposition remaining with the Thunder Bay Hydro-Electric Commission. It is the end of a disagreement, I think it might be said, which goes back to 1970; sooner or later all things are settled.

Mr. Peterson: Just legislate them out of existence.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Bounsall moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Bounsall: This bill prescribes the conditions under which a collective agreement may be reopened between the unions and the employers during the lifetime of that contract and includes the making, giving, or issuing of an order, direction or notice against an employer under any Act for health or safety reasons; the changing or proposed changing of the production standards at the place of employment; the introduction or proposed introduction of technological change at the place of employment and the contracting out to other persons work which would ordinarily be carried out by the employees of the employer.

[4:30]

CHILD WELFARE MUNICIPAL PAYMENTS CONTINUANCE ACT

Hon. Mr. Taylor moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to Provide for the

Continuance of Certain Payments between Municipalities under the Child Welfare Act, 1965.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: This will confirm the validity of section 88 of the Child Welfare Act, 1965, during the period from Sept. 1, 1971, to Aug. 1, 1975 for reasons which are set out in some detail in the explanatory notes of the bill.

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch: Before the orders of the day I wish to table the answers to questions 76 and 85 standing on the notice paper. (See appendix, page 3185.)

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Clerk of the House: The 24th order, House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (concluded)

On vote 2902:

Mr. Chairman: It is my understanding that the time allotted for the estimates of the Ministry of Education has expired. However we must put and carry items 11, 12 and 13 of vote 2902.

Vote 2902 agreed to.

Vote 2903 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes the estimates of the Ministry of Education.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Mr. Renwick: Shall we give consent to the minister speaking from a seat other than his own?

Mr. Chairman: That has usually been the practice. I think it is agreed to?

Does the minister have an opening statement?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

It's not that I am trying to flee the member for Ottawa East but I thought it might be more convenient if I sat here and directly faced the official opposition.

Mr. Roy: Why does the minister go there? Why doesn't he stay here?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: Eyeball to eyeball.

Mr. Roy: Yes, you have been in bed all day.

Mr. McClellan: Wait until the vote, Albert.

Mr. Roy: That's it; you are just posturing.

Mr. Bain: You should know about posturing, Albert.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. minister may proceed.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am pleased to present the proposed budget for the Ministry of Community and Social Services for the fiscal year 1976-1977.

Mr. R. S. Smith: You are starting to sound like Havrot.

Mr. Bain: Why, do you miss him?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It is the largest budget in the history of Ontario—\$985 million—virtually \$1 billion. It is nearly \$100 million more than last year and please permit me to put these estimates in the proper context so that the hon. members, the people of Ontario and all those dependent upon these moneys will truly understand the need for these expenditures.

Expenditures for social services in this province have been continually expanding over the past five years. In expansionary times, expanding social services was a responsible thing to do. Certainly, without restraint now, inflationary damage would hurt most the very people who need our programme. Social services cannot expand faster than our economic ability to provide services. Our limited expansion this year is designed to impose restraint equitably on all areas of social services, while maintaining present levels of service.

Over the past five years, this government has allocated the greatest expansion to those services which are designed to increase self-sufficiency and greater participation in the lifestream of the community. In the last five years, funding for mental retardation programmes in the community has increased sixfold. Spending on vocational rehabilitation is up by 260 per cent. Spending on day care is up 560 per cent; while spending on homemakers, counselling and home nursing services has nearly tripled. Funding for senior citizens' services has increased 250

per cent. Spending on child welfare has been doubled.

This year, my ministry's estimates represent 8.4 per cent of all government spending in Ontario, and that is a larger share than ever before.

In addition to this priority, however, this government has also introduced in other ministries new programmes and assumed further responsibilities which directly benefit those in need, while relieving the municipalities and agencies of very substantial financial burdens.

Last year alone, this government spent \$95 million on income support for the elderly through GAINS, \$35 million for drug benefit assistance for the elderly; \$59 million for housing rental subsidies; \$119 million for OHIP premium assistance; and \$404 million for the Ontario tax credit system.

The fact that more than \$719 million was spent in other ministries on income support and supplementation programmes, over and above the \$880 million spent by this ministry alone last year, shows this government's high priority for programmes for the needy.

My ministry's estimates this year provide for an overall increase of 11.8 per cent over last year's actual spending. This includes the provision for a 5.5 per cent increase in transfer payments to all municipalities and agencies for existing services. This is an increase, and not a decrease or cutback.

In addition, provision is made for previous capital commitments, annualization of projects and services that started in mid-year, operating subsidies for newly-completed capital construction, and the development of community programmes for the retarded.

My ministry has kept its own direct operating costs well below the rate of expansion for overall ministry programmes. My ministry's direct operating expenses this year will be just five per cent higher than last year. Internal economies have made this possible without sacrificing direct operation of social services or assistance.

In the area of expenditures for general welfare assistance, early indications show that tightening of the eligibility requirements, as well as closer liaison with Manpower, have had an appreciable effect on caseloads. At the same time, we have assured that no one in true need would be neglected.

During February and March of this year, caseloads dropped by about 2.5 per cent a month. In April, the first month under the new regulations, caseloads dropped about six per cent.

Mr. Roy: Except in Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The cumulative January-April decline in caseloads is 10.6 per cent. This represents actually a decline of 26 per cent in the "employables" category.

Mr. R. S. Smith: In all the industrial centres.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: General assistance caseloads in April, 1976, the first month of the restraint programme, are in fact nine per cent lower than caseloads in April, 1975.

It should be noted that caseloads traditionally remain steady, or increase slightly, during the first four months of the year. Because caseloads traditionally decline over the summer, we anticipate that this trend will continue. Assuming the provincial trend continues, my March estimate of a six per cent decline in welfare expenditures will likely be on the conservative side and most municipalities concur that this major programme can be provided within a 5.5 per cent increase in budget.

These estimates also provide an additional \$3.2 million in the area of children's services to provide for the exceptional cases where essential services would be jeopardized and for unanticipated costs to either the Children's Aid Societies or local governments in 1976.

Provision is made for a \$250,000 child abuse programme to assist Children's Aid Societies and other social services, health services and related agencies in co-ordinating existing resources for the early identification, prevention and treatment of child abuse.

My estimates also provide \$96.8 million for services to the aged. Over the past five years the growth in funding to services for the aged in my ministry alone has increased by 250 per cent. Priority for expansion has been in those areas which assist the elderly to live on their own including elderly persons' centres in my ministry which provide meals on wheels and day care. In other ministries, similar priority has been given to GAINS and senior citizens' apartments which enable the elderly to live independently.

Rate changes have been made in the homes for the aged by increasing extended care charges and the residents' share. Early indications are that these changes will enable homes for the aged to live within the restraint guidelines without sacrificing the level of service.

Provision is also made in these estimates for \$34 million in operating funds and \$6 million of capital for day care. Ontario already has

what is reputed to be the finest day care provision in North America, and the moneys requested for operating costs are double those of last year's estimates.

These estimates provide \$361 million for family benefits. In addition to allowances, this allocation includes provision for the employment incentives introduced last July which help those recipients who want to return to work to enter the work force on a part-time or full-time basis with assistance.

In reviewing these estimates, you will also see that funds are provided for expansion of services and new capital projects for community-based services to the mentally retarded.

With the funds provided in these estimates, we are planning to create a broad range of community programmes for the mentally retarded, including a provision for 1,000 accommodation places; 155 development day care places; 775 workshop and training places; 57 community support projects; and 62 protective service workers. These programmes are designed to serve a new client population in addition to some 7,000 people now being served in community programmes.

The district working group process, which has a total community involvement, is achieving a large measure of success. Currently, we have 137 proposals through this process consisting of 38 accommodation places; 62 work and training projects; and 37 special support projects.

By the end of this year we anticipate a reduction of 500 residents in large schedule I facilities across the province due to the development of community accommodation alternatives. All arrangements for community placements will be made with the knowledge and approval of the parents, next of kin or guardians concerned.

In these estimates we are committed to provide for the valid needs of all citizens who cannot fully support themselves.

I invite the hon. members to review with me the estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services for the fiscal year, 1976-1977.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, one feels the incredible pressure of the time constraints in this debate and, for that reason, I wanted to focus in my overview on a part of our approach to this ministry and hope that we will have time to pursue other items when we get into the item-by-item discussion.

[4:45]

As we start to deal with the estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, we should remember and keep present in our minds the issue that we're trying to address, and that issue is poverty. By whatever measure of the poverty line we use, whether it's that of Statistics Canada, the most stringent, or that of the CCSD or that of the special Senate committee on poverty, the figures all add up to the same sorry picture, a picture of the persistence of poverty for a sizable minority of the people of this province.

Perhaps the terrible reality of poverty today in Ontario is best seen in the light of the question, who are the poor of this province? The answer in stark numerical terms is that the largest group of poor in Ontario, in the overwhelming numerical majority, are children. The report of the National Council of Welfare for kids told us in 1975 that the poor children in Ontario were 400,690 in number; 17 per cent of all children in the province were children of families below the Statistics Canada poverty line, members of families which spent over 70 per cent of their income on the basic necessities of food, shelter and clothing. The simple reality is that Ontario has a child poverty problem of tragic dimension.

We can identify these children in a great number of ways. Again, time constraints are with us and I want to try to focus a little bit. Some 97,637 are the children of mother-led families in this province. We should remember that fully 65 per cent of the children of mother-led families are poor. From another perspective over 100,000 poor children in this province are the children of single-parent mothers on public assistance; 84,532 are on family benefits as of September, 1975, and between 30,000 and 50,000 children on general welfare assistance. Accurate figures are impossible for us to obtain but whatever way you slice it, whatever poverty line you use—and I'm using the lowest, that of Statistics Canada—this government's income maintenance programmes are below these poverty lines and condemn tens of thousands of children in this province to a life of deprivation and want.

If we look at a couple of comparisons, family benefits rates for a family of four—a mother, a child of nine and two children between 10 and 15—the allowance at current rates would be \$5,664. The lowest poverty line figure, that of the unrevised Statistics Canada poverty line of January, 1975, fully a year out of date, establishes a poverty line for that size of family, a family of four, at

\$5,877. If we look at their revised poverty line for the same year, which takes into account regional variations in cost of living in the province, we arrive at figures, according to the size of the community, of between \$6,900 and \$7,600. If we look at more generous definitions of a poverty line, that of the CCSD, we have a figure of \$7,000 a year as a minimum necessary figure for a family of four. If we look at the figures used by the special Senate committee on poverty, updated to January, 1975, we have a poverty line for a family of four of \$7,871.

The fact remains that this ministry keeps families and children in a condition of poverty. The Henderson report in one of its most ludicrous and illustrative statements proudly boasts of Ontario's generosity as follows, referring to family benefits:

Benefit levels have risen since 1966. Social assistance rates have been increased by 53 per cent to offset an increase of 55 per cent in the consumer price index.

What generosity! Henderson goes on to suggest that Ontario can't afford to eliminate poverty. In fact, no modern industrial society can afford the persistence of a poverty minority in its midst.

I lack time to deal with the financial and social costs of the child poverty syndrome, but the real cost of continued massive child poverty is well known. I could point to the Lambert study that was done for this government, which documented that it was the poor children of this province who eventually end up in our correctional system. The cost of the Tory neglect of this child poverty phenomenon is staggering in financial terms—in terms, in fact, of the social service budget of much of the ministry that is before us today, a budget for services trying desperately to mend lives that have been twisted and damaged by the effects of childhood poverty.

Forty-seven per cent of all youth cases served by the Metro Children's Aid Society, where the youngest child was 12 or over, came from single-parent families; 43.5 per cent of Children's Aid Society protection services go to one-parent families, according to a 1970 study of the Vanier Institute. I could go on and on but I think the effects of poverty on childhood do not need to be dwelt upon. The effects are tragic in human terms and they are costly in dollar terms.

The continued presence of poverty, such as I have outlined, presents a special dilemma for us in the New Democratic Party. As democratic socialists, our political commit-

ment is to a redistribution of wealth and power. That's what we're all about. The dilemma is about the means of dealing effectively with poverty.

After 40 or 50 years' experience with the welfare state, and I include the experience of the northern European social democracies, we now raise questions about the reliance on income maintenance payments as an effective method of redistributing wealth. In fact, the evidence suggests that as a means of helping people escape from poverty, income maintenance schemes have been largely ineffective.

In Canada, for example, the most highly developed part of our income maintenance system—that serving senior citizens—had the balloon of effectiveness burst by the recent CCSD study that showed that over 50 per cent of retired Canadians over 65 years of age were still living in poverty. With all the attention and concern that's been directed to the income needs of senior citizens in the last decade, we have yet to distribute transfer payments to a majority of this group sufficient to break them out of poverty. Being out of the labour force is itself a precipitating condition of impoverishment. This is true, also, of families.

Simple justice demands this government's income maintenance rates be raised to adequate levels above established poverty levels. We would do that. Common sense demands an end to the hodge-podge of categorical programmes, all based on an endless series of category mistakes, nonsensical. They cry out to be rationalized and simplified. But as an anti-poverty measure, as a means of helping families and children to escape from the trap of poverty, we are not overly optimistic for income maintenance or transfer payment schemes—even schemes like the guaranteed annual income established at an adequate level.

Our feeling, and I think our experience over the last 40 years, suggest our economic system has an intrinsic ability to restore to a substandard level those whose sole support is transfer payments, regardless of either the original benefit level or the good intentions of legislatures. I think we recognize that as a dilemma. The evidence tells us that the best hope for an escape from poverty comes through a relationship with the work force—not through marginal steady or part-time jobs on the fringe of the economy; not your day in the scrap yard; but through a stable, career-oriented relationship with employment in the mainstream of the economy. Given that assumption and our own commitment, it

follows to us that an NDP Ministry of Community and Social Services would place the highest priority upon the development of employment opportunity programmes and to social job creation.

Let me suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that there is an urgent need for a provincial manpower programme. Unlike Canada Manpower, it would serve specific, identifiable groups of disadvantaged people.

Mr. Swadron pointed out in 1971 that Canada Manpower serves an economic function, not a social function. Canada Manpower is not equipped to deal with disadvantaged minorities who are outside of a relationship with the work force and who have special difficulties entering the work force. Canada Manpower matches people who are already in the labour force with the job market.

Therefore, there is a need for a specialized provincial manpower programme that would service specifically disadvantaged minority groups. A provincial manpower programme would provide a specialized and integrated counselling, training, vocational rehabilitation and employment placement service to disadvantaged groups now excluded for various reasons from the work force.

It would not rely upon the private sector, as this government does, to solve the job problem as if by magic. We reject this government's trickle-down approach to job creation, as Mr. Swadron did in 1971. We would assume responsibility for the creation of public sector job opportunities, and a community employment strategy would be a central component of our approach.

We would provide generous financial incentives in the form of adequate training grants, positive tax-back rates or reduction rates—whichever you prefer to call them—and financial cushions during transitional periods to facilitate re-entry into the work force.

We would develop a network of support services that are essential if such a programme is to succeed. Pre-eminently among such services would be sufficient daycare facilities. Unlike Swadron, we do not dismiss the single-parent mother from the employment opportunity programme.

The poverty group with the most alarming growth rate in this province is the mother-led family. A genuinely preventive social policy for mother-led families is absolutely essential if we are to avoid an enormous child welfare problem in the future. I

don't have to remind the minister that a restorative service costs up to \$23,000 a year for a child. A fraction of that amount spent now in social job creation, in vocational opportunities and day care, is justified solely on economic grounds, on cost benefit grounds, let alone considering the human dimensions.

The single-parent mother in our society is faced now with a tremendous array of obstacles to a decent standard of living, and these obstacles have to be addressed. The average income in 1974 for a woman was only 43 per cent of that earned by a man; roughly \$4,500 a year as opposed to \$10,500 for a man. That kind of inequity has to be dealt with by your government through vigorous minimum wage legislation and through vigorous fair employment practices legislation.

But the single-parent mother is also faced too often with an absolute choice, a black and white choice between taking a job on the one hand and neglecting her child-rearing responsibilities on the other. The result is that she is unable to develop her skills to pursue a career. For example, she is doomed to work in and out of low-paid, low-skilled jobs at irregular hours which don't conflict with home management and child-rearing responsibilities.

We have to develop employment opportunities which permit part-time, career-based employment, together with matching supportive child care facilities. A social jobs programme for single-parent mothers would provide for a continuing of part-time and full-time jobs in socially necessary work for family heads now defined as unemployable. It would combine stable part-time work and skill-training opportunities together with the type of support offered in the work activity concept. This would be in marked contrast to current strategies which provide short-term jobs, readiness support but assume that the general labour market will meet the long-term need. That's simply not good enough and it doesn't address itself to the problem.

[5:00]

Finally, this would require a significant expansion of day care facilities, both full-time and part-time, to accommodate the part-time nature of the job opportunities created. If we fail to move in this direction we continue to condemn single-parent mothers to a kind of desperate state when their child-rearing responsibilities have ended in the late 30s or early 40s. They move back into the labour force and they move down to the bottom, to the fringe, of the economy and

move from a condition of poverty, in some cases, on public assistance to a condition of poverty on the fringe of the labour force.

These remarks, as I said before, aren't intended to be comprehensive. The matters I have focused on—single-parent mothers, in particular—are intended to be illustrative of our general approach.

I could refer you to the Swadron report of 1971, I guess, page 143—I might refer the minister to that page. It provides an excellent description of a sensible programme of employment opportunities for welfare recipients, totally inconsistent with your own nonsensical welfare bashing.

Our own goal would be a restructured Ministry of Community and Social Services focused on prevention and rehabilitation rather than as now on maintenance and crisis intervention. It would function within the context of an overall provincial manpower policy and would develop specific special expertise in delivering specialized manpower services to identified disadvantaged groups. It would be as unlike the Tory Ministry of Community and Social Services as night is from day.

I won't go on to talk about restructuring the ministry or engage in any remarks about decentralization as opposed to centralization. Perhaps we can get into some discussion of that in the item by item stage. I had hoped that we would have sufficient time to look at a number of alternative ways of running a Ministry of Community and Social Services. With seven hours obviously that's not possible and we have tried to pick out one or two areas which are most important to us and we will try to pursue them in some depth this time.

I have to say something about the minister's stewardship. I think I spoke at length about your cutback programme during the supplementary estimates in the spring. I haven't changed my mind. We have a welfare minister who seems to see his job as one of attacking those who are in need, of applying his lead boots, his welfare bashing, his freeze, his constraints and his cutbacks while seeming to be indifferent to the real issues and the real problems of the disadvantaged and needy. He is a minister who trumpets the work ethic and cuts back on work activity projects; who undermines his excellent vocational rehabilitation programme; who halts the development of new daycare facilities; who wreaks havoc with our Children's Aid Society; who is, in short, utterly incapable of serving the needs of the weak and disadvantaged of this province.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Mr. Chairman, I have a few general comments to make before we get into the votes. As the previous speaker has indicated, it's very difficult with the restraints that we have on time, to cover what we would like to cover in our opening remarks. I would just outline some of the more general areas that we would like to look at and on which we will be questioning the minister as we go through the estimates and indicate the position that we would take in regard to them.

In the past six months the major consideration within the ministry has been the restraint programme and how it has been applied by the present minister. There's no doubt that the basic position of employment and education is the ultimate answer, along with preventive services to the poor in this province, but obviously this ministry has placed that in a secondary position over the past years to the provision of monetary funds to the poor and to the needy, albeit that this was done in a way that kept them well below the poverty line as outlined by the previous speaker and which I will not go into.

The fact that counselling and special services and preventive service and this type of thing have not grown to the same extent in costs in this ministry as has the provision of funds for support services indicates, I believe—and the minister has indicated this in his opening remarks—that the ministry still considers the prime consideration for it to be the provision of support services in a monetary fashion rather than in prevention and the other areas that could assist those people who are on family benefits or general welfare assistance to enter the mainstream of life within our province when the eradication of what we term poor should be the ultimate aim of this ministry whether or not the McKeough report says that it can be done.

Obviously the McKeough report—and I refer to it because the provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) was the chairman of it—is a biased report. It's partially a government report because the Treasurer of this province sat as chairman of that committee. When that report says that we cannot eradicate poverty in this province, it indicates the philosophy of the government opposite, which is that it has no intention of even trying to eradicate poverty in this province.

With the programmes that they have brought in over the years, it certainly has indicated that they agree to live beside poverty. Although they're not prepared to live with it, they live beside it. They are obviously not wishing to be a part of it

themselves. As you look at the expense accounts that were tabled in this Legislature yesterday, it's obvious that most of us in this assembly are not living in poverty. In fact, some who travel back and forth considerably are living in such a fashion that their travelling expenses for a minimum number of miles are above what this ministry is giving to a family of four to live on in this whole province for the whole year and that includes all their expenses.

I believe that is the type of thing we should be looking at very closely, in the light of the fact that preventive and other services and programmes have not and likely will not be brought in by this government to get those people the opportunity to remove themselves from the poverty rolls.

During the last few months the restraint programme has become of significant importance in this ministry because of the philosophy of the ministry over the years that support programmes were their only method by which to deal with the poor. We have no alternative today but to deal basically, primarily, with those restraint programmes because on that basis alone can we make any judgement as to what is happening to these people. The other programmes are obviously not being made available to them nor is it the intention of the ministry to do so.

The restraint programme which was announced in the fall and was followed up by each minister concerned—or many of the ministers at least—travelling around the province, trying to explain to the people what it would do and what it wouldn't do to them, is now in effect. The people who are directly concerned—particularly those at the lower income level—are feeling the pressures.

The minister indicates that outside his ministry there are many things being done for income support and that's true insofar as the GAINS programme, drug benefits and other things are concerned. But within his own programmes let's look at family benefits and general welfare assistance. There has been no increase in those benefits for one year and in that one year period we have gone through an inflationary increase in the cost of living of between 10 per cent and 12 per cent. Those people are now 10 per cent behind where they were a year ago and if he believes that the manner in which the income support is structured—either for family benefits or general welfare assistance—has provided sufficiently in lieu of the 10 per cent increase in the cost of living—let alone the fact that they were well behind prior to this time last year—obviously he does not accept the fact

that there are people living below the poverty line. He is prepared, and so is this government, to leave them there.

The minister says no one will suffer. The problem is that no one he knows, perhaps, will suffer, but many people will suffer. A 5.5 per cent increase is being allowed to the general welfare recipients and to other agencies which are funded directly or indirectly through municipalities and the province. At the same time the total costs of his whole ministry have increased by 11.7 per cent, and that certainly does not indicate that he is prepared even to keep up with the increasing, spiralling costs caused by inflation.

We in this party have taken the position that restraints are necessary. There is no question about that, but it is where you restrain that is significant.

When the minister was in North Bay on his travels about the province some questions were put to him about his proposals. A number of people indicated, after he had spoken, that the causes of inflation were not those people on welfare nor any of the people being dealt with either directly or indirectly under the programmes administered by this minister. Yet these same people are the ones who, perhaps, are going to be hurt the most by the restraint programme in this province.

There is no question in my mind that a 5.5 per cent increase to the general welfare assistance for people in this province is illegal. It may turn out that we will have a third court case going on in this province in regard to actions of this government. The Act and the regulations specify that the ministry must provide 80 per cent of the cost of those services provided through the municipality. The municipality, at its discretion, has to make payments as long as they come within the terms of the Act and the regulations. Therefore, there is no way a 5.5 per cent restraint can be placed on the increased costs at the general welfare level.

[5:15]

If the municipalities spend the money, then it is obvious that by law in this province it is necessary for you to provide the 80 per cent, 50 per cent of which comes from the federal government. So I believe that that part of your restraint programme is not even legal, let alone realistic. I would indicate to you that perhaps for the third time in a month the province may well be in the courts when the municipalities submit to you for payment amounts that are above 5.5 per cent.

The minister's statement today indicates there is some drop in the number of people who are on the general welfare assistance rolls across the province, but it is only based on 10 cities and those 10 cities happen to be the most industrialized centres in all of the province or in each region of the province. Let's look at them: Toronto, Kingston, Waterloo, Ottawa-Carleton, Hamilton, Sudbury, London, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

Let's just look at those communities that you have mentioned in northern Ontario, for example. You are basing your statistics on what's happening in Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay. Obviously they are the three major growth centres in the northern part of the province, they are the most industrialized centres of that part of the province, and with the buoyancy that has begun in the economy, those are the first places to create new employment. Obviously those people who are employable and on the welfare rolls are in positions where they will have the first opportunity at that type of employment.

You don't take any statistics from places such as Timiskaming, Nipissing district, or Parry Sound district, to mention three districts that are represented by all sides of this House. Nor do you mention the large and vast areas in the northwest part of the province. Rather, you base your statistics on those municipalities that will react first to an upturn in the economy, and react quickly in the early spring to the construction industry boom that starts in late March and early April across this province.

There is a drastic reduction in the number of unemployed people in those areas first. The rest of the province lags behind. I would venture to say that in the other 40 per cent of the province that you have not included in your statistics, the number of employable people on general welfare assistance this year is no different from what it was last year, and that your programme has not worked one bit in those areas. In fact, I don't see how your programme has been working even in the areas that you mentioned. Because of the upturn of the economy, I am certain that you or your programme or your ministry cannot take any credit for the removal of those people, when most of them have been removed by the upturn in the economy and the coming of the construction season.

Obviously, the statements you made are based on a great number of false assumptions, if they are to be applicable—which you tried to make them—across the Province of

Ontario. If you just look at the 10 municipalities you mentioned, you will see those are the most industrialized centres where new job opportunities will be created quickest. Mr. Rhodes shakes his head. Could you tell me what's a more industrialized centre in northern Ontario than those three that were mentioned?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I am saying the job opportunities aren't increasing there either.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Well, your minister says they are.

Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Thunder Bay are the most industrialized centres in northern Ontario and they are the areas where construction does take place most quickly.

I would just like to touch on a couple of other matters. One is the question of the restraint programme again, as it's applied to the Children's Aid Societies and indicate to the minister that we all realize that the minister at first came out with his blanket statement of the 5.5 per cent increase for the societies and then changed that and dealt with the societies on an individual basis.

Mr. Warner: Which they should have done in the first place.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Which they should have done in the first place, yes. On the other hand, the fact of the matter is that in the case of those societies that stayed within the 5.5 per cent and gave in to the ministry at the start and maintained that position, most of their budgets have been approved, whereas those that have asked for review and have had review have at this point in time not had their budgets approved for this current year. They are well into the current year and as yet they have not had their budgets approved. There is some great difficulty in those areas to know just where they are going to be going because they don't know yet what expenditures they can make.

I'd like to point out two or three areas of concern. One of the areas hit very hard is the societies. The minister has had to review their budgets and 15 of the 50 have been approved as submitted; 19 additional have still to be negotiated; and three are outstanding. I would like to ask the minister of those that are still to be negotiated and outstanding, are there any of them which have stayed within the 5.5 per cent? The two things go together and it becomes more obvious as the year goes on that they are

being placed in a position where they may be expending funds which they will not have.

There are a number of specific instances across the province, such as the fact that the caseloads are increasing in Kingston and district and resigning staff is not being replaced and money for outside treatment is being reduced. I would say to you that that is a phenomenon that is taking place right across this province. There are many children who should be placed in special types of homes, but are not being placed by Children's Aid Societies simply because they don't have the funds to place them there. That is taking place right in my area where the society accepted the 5.5 per cent restrictions, but cut back its services to the extent where the children and the people are suffering. I don't believe this is either right on their part or the ministry's part.

Dufferin county is having to raise \$2,000 from the public for a one-day-a-week credit counselling programme. They have to have public subscription besides the funding they are obtaining from you and the ministry. I'm not against public subscriptions for certain things. But we can't have Wintario taking money out of the people's pockets and shoving it into other programmes and expect local people at the same time to subsidize those programmes which have been traditionally funded by yourselves and the municipalities.

The Norfolk Children's Aid Society has had to abandon its summer camp programme and has established a fresh air outdoor fund instead or is trying to fund such an outdoor existence on a day-to-day basis rather than a summer camp programme.

Mr. Haggerty: They are trying to get a grant from Wintario.

Mr. R. S. Smith: As you can see, the people who are losing out under your programme are the poor and the children in this province. It is very difficult for us to understand why they must suffer from the restraints that have been caused by the expenditures of other people who have created the inflationary trend in this country. There is nobody that I know of who had enough resources, if they are on family benefits or under Children's Aid Society care or in any way connected with your ministry, even to help to create in any small manner the inflationary spiral that we have. Yet they are the people who are being made to suffer the most under this restraint programme.

Mr. Warner: The small people pay for your overspending.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I'd just like to go back a bit and point out to you the attempts that have been made over the years in the Legislature itself to provide preventive programmes and services that would, in the long run, prove to be much more beneficial than the present type of financial assistance, and not much more.

Last year, a group of people made a proposal to the Minister of Community and Social Services regarding the establishment of an advisory committee to study and recommend programmes for implementing preventive provisions of the Child Welfare Act. The member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell), myself, together with some other people from the community, presented a draft proposal to the ministry. There was one meeting held on May 13 to look into this matter.

At that time the minister of the day, your predecessor, chose to bring in a panel. He had a panel discussion involving three knowledgeable people, and then it was open to the floor. There was a decision made that there would be another meeting held in June, but for some reason or other, this became impossible and was cancelled by the ministry. There was then a decision made to hold another meeting in September, but that was cancelled for reasons of the electoral process.

Mr. Martel: I have written three letters since, too.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Since that time there have been a number of questions in this House to you, as the successor to Hon. Mr. Brunelle, as to when these meetings would be held and what would be done in this regard. The member for Sudbury East indicates that he has written you three letters on the subject, and yet we are still where we were a year ago—and that is no place and nowhere.

That section of the Child Welfare Act, under which preventive services could be provided, is still not really a part of your ministry's programme. The funds are still not being provided in any meaningful way to the Children's Aid Societies to increase their preventive services across the province.

There are just one or two other matters that I would like to cover quickly in my opening remarks. I would leave day care and mental retardation until the later votes under which they come specifically. But I believe that you should refer in the first vote to the changes that have been put forward by the federal government in regard to the whole social security programme in Canada. There is the question of the subsidy that the federal

government has proposed for the working poor, and which has been discussed in this House each successive year during the past eight, as far as I can remember, by both the members of the party to my right and by members of my party as well. There have been some types of programmes established on a trial basis in this area. But, obviously, the minister went to Ottawa and just sat and said, "I will not take part in the discussions until after the first ministers meet in June."

If we have a restraint programme, why the hell did we send you down there and waste the money? Why didn't you just send a message and stay here? Obviously, you must have taken some of your other people with you to advise you. So the cost of that trip could have been saved, and, although it may be a minuscule amount in terms of your total budget, as well as the total budget of this province, it does indicate the wasteful nature of the application of funds that should be provided in other more needy areas, such as those I have mentioned and which the previous speaker mentioned as well.

[5:30]

I did ask you in the House a few days ago to enlighten us as to what other provisions were provided by the federal ministry in regard to the new social security programme envisaged and was asking for approval from the provincial ministry. I did not get a direct or clear answer, for example, on the whole question of the provision of assistance to volunteer agencies in the community, where I understand the federal government is now prepared to share cost with you on provision of assistance to them.

Is that part of the programme that you also refused to discuss? Or did you take part in any discussion on any other part of the programme that was provided by the federal ministry as part of the new social development programme that it envisaged at that level?

I am not indicating that we in this party provincially are in full support of what is being proposed at the federal level as the panacea for all the poor in this country. But I am indicating to you, in lieu of a proper programme, I do believe some of the proposals they were putting forward were an advancement on what we have now. I have come to believe after almost 11 years in this House that any advancement is something and that we have to take what we can get, no matter how little it is or how long it takes.

Obviously we're trying to push this ministry even under its present programmes, which

are unsatisfactory overall, to provide at least under those programmes a living allowance that is at the poverty level. We've yet to reach that. We've come close a couple of times, but then we slid back two or three years and we are now in the process of that long slide back again. We came close last June, much closer than we are now, and now we are 10 per cent behind. By next June we will be 20 or 30 per cent behind where we were a year ago. It is obvious that the ministry does not intend to do anything much about that.

The other specific question I would like to ask you is do you include in your estimates this year an increase to match the cost of living increase that has taken place over the past 12 months for those people on family benefits and on general welfare assistance? With those remarks, I will finish for now and deal with the different subjects as the votes come up.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I will respond briefly to some of the general observations because I know as the particular subject matters are reached in the vote-by-vote and item-by-item consideration we will probably be repeating some of the same. So I will deal in general terms and look forward to further discussions on these items as they are reached in the estimates.

There is no question of the concern of my ministry and the concern of the members opposite with the people who are in real need. It's a question of how you deal with what problem. Much has been made of the technique or approach and the income support supplementation, the income security angle, is the best. My friend in the NDP indicated he is not convinced that that is the right technique. In some respects he is certainly right. It's a position that I think we have taken.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's not a question of how much money you spend in terms of how much good you do. It's the method in which you spend it, the approach, the technique—getting at the people that you are trying to help. We can talk statistics—and I've given some and I've heard some from you—but I don't think there is going to be too much gained by engaging in a statistical war because it is not a question of items in a tariff schedule. We are talking about people, people who need some help, and through no fault of their own are victims of circumstance and

require assistance. This is the approach that we are taking.

I've been criticized for concentrating too much on the aspect of treatment or help to those who are actually in need rather than in terms of the preventive approach and, theoretically, I agree. I agree we have to concentrate as much as possible on prevention because if we're 100 per cent successful in prevention then, of course, we don't have a problem any more.

I'd like to point out that the thrust of my ministry has not been in terms of simply reacting to crises as they arise and transferring moneys to people because they are down and out.

Mr. Martel: Come on. It's been four years.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: When I made my initial opening remarks I did quote some statistics. I looked at it in perspective, in terms of the five-year period, because I think you should understand where we're trying to go. If you look at the maintenance aspect in terms of dollars, you see that the provincial allowances are up 155 per cent over that period and the municipal allowances are up 22 per cent.

When I talked about prevention and rehabilitation, that was the area I gave the figures for in terms of vocational rehabilitation—up 260 per cent; day nurseries, 560 per cent; homemaker services and counselling, 276 per cent; mentally retarded community programmes, 595 per cent. In that area of prevention that's where the concentration and the thrust have been.

Mr. R. S. Smith: What about dollars?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think it's only fair to recognize that.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Anything would be a large increase.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right. While we're talking about the statistics, I'll move from one critic to the other. The statistical base of the drop in the welfare rates has been criticized. Why take 10 cities? When we take 10 cities, you say they're loaded or you imply they're not a true reflection of the facts.

Remember that we have historical experience in terms of taking these cities, looking at them and finally comparing that with the totals when we gather all the information in. We can't do that on a continuing monthly statistical basis for all the communities. We have picked these and we have found that they're accurate.

I think they're accurate because they are a cross-section and they represent 60 per cent of the caseload as I indicated in my statement in the House earlier today. They are indicative of what is happening and I think they'll project what does happen when we again look in retrospect at the end of the year.

Sure, we've heard the comment that there hasn't been any increase in the GWA rates—I presume you meant the family benefit rates as well—for almost a year.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I mentioned both.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think there was last spring and then there was an increase in July, if I'm not mistaken.

Mr. R. S. Smith: July.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes. We'll get into that and reasons for it when we get into the items.

I'm concerned about inflation, too, and you mentioned that the causes of inflation should not be attributed to the very people who are at the lower end of the income spectrum.

Mr. McClellan: Let us fight inflation.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: These are the people we're trying to help. I agree 100 per cent. I have said before that it's important that we do what we're doing to ensure that the very people we're trying to help are not hurt the most, because they will be with inflation. They're the very people who are hurt the most and the quickest through inflation.

Mr. Martel: They are hurt by your restraint programme.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There is an overall problem which we have to attack, and that's the general problem of constraint.

Mr. Warner: Explain that to the Children's Aid Societies.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right. You mention the Children's Aid Societies and I would like to respond in a general way now and deal with these when we reach the items.

When I went around this province, I told the Children's Aid Societies and other agencies that it was a pretty rough way of handling a budget in terms of saying, "Here is what I have got left and we will give you 5.5 per cent across the board." I knew there would be inherent inequities in that. That's the very reason I spoke about and recognized the extraordinary problems some

of them were being confronted with because of such things as the repeal of section 8 of the Training Schools Act. I said, "I will leave the door open, and I will address those very problems that you have on an individual basis."

Mr. Ferrier: You were asked to do that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I said I would do that, because I said that no child in true need in this province—as a matter of fact, no person in true need in this province—would suffer because of this constraint programme. And I did that.

Mr. R. S. Smith: You have to do exactly that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I undertook that and I did do that and I produced. I have examined all of these budgets, and I have addressed my problem to these budgets—and in particular part 1; as you know they are broken into parts. Part 1 dealing with direct child care costs has been addressed and we have additional moneys. I fought and obtained additional moneys—as a matter of fact \$3.2 million in additional funds—to address this problem.

Mr. McClellan: Is that in these estimates?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It is here; I mentioned it in my opening remarks and we will come to it. I have accordingly examined the extraordinary burden in terms of additional caseload and costs attributable to the direct care of children. That is why, when we come to that item, I would like to produce for you the different societies and show you the percentage increases that do vary substantially to ensure that that problem is resolved.

I don't apologize for that. You say I said 5.5 per cent and changed my mind. No, we proceeded in accordance with the spirit of the constraint programme allowing always for equity, and that's what we have done.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Do you want me to quote you?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am in Hansard. You can read what I have said if you can't remember.

Mr. Warner: Only after they stood up to you.

Mr. McClellan: They had threatened to resign if the minister insisted.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well again, I don't respond to irresponsible comments, but the fact remains that the initial—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Please, I don't want to become controversial in any way or provocative.

Mr. McClellan: You are, though.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I said from the outset that we would be fair, and I think we have been. As we proceed with the estimates you will see what we have done in that regard.

I would like to comment—again going back to the question of straight income support, and I presume income supplementation in terms of the income security package—that sure, it may be a simplistic solution to say, “Here, we are going to give everybody this much money,” because money, as you know, isn't the answer. We have to distinguish between income testing and needs testing. We have to look at the support services that are given.

If we talk about figures in regard to poverty lines, I think we have to remember that they are expressed in gross income terms. If you look at FBA figures, for example, you will see that they are in net terms and you have to take into consideration family allowances and that type of thing. When you take into consideration those factors, you will see there is actually very little difference in the figures that you quote in terms of poverty lines and the FBA rates.

Mr. McClellan: That's true, you are wrong.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well, that is again a matter of opinion. I appreciate your opinion and I don't wish to debate it; I just wish to comment in regard to an observation that you made.

Mr. McClellan: Are you afraid to debate it?

[5:45]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, I am not timid of a debate.

You mentioned the question of centralization as opposed to decentralization. You did not develop it. Frankly, if you want my opinion, I feel that it is necessary to decentralize to get into close contact with the people that we are dealing with through our district offices, through our operations there. You haven't indicated what your view is—

Mr. McClellan: I thought we would do that in programme administration.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right. Okay, then I will address myself to it then, but I would

just like to say that of the 9,000 employees, we have got probably 90 per cent in the field.

Reference was made to Ottawa, and I am sure that matter will come up again when we deal with the items individually. It wasn't a question of being silent in Ottawa. It was a matter, really, of looking at the individual items on the agenda as they came up.

Now, of course, I suppose the more clear-cut item was the question of the splitting of pensions. The proposition was that at the election of either spouse on marital breakup, the pension would be split right down the middle. I advanced the proposition that the election should ensure that one spouse or the other could take the whole pension, if that was their disposition and if it was better and more in their interest. Because it might be better that they settle that asset of the marriage partnership in that way. That wasn't accepted at the conference, so Ontario went along and agreed to the automatic splitting down the middle at the option of either marriage partner on marital breakup.

The other area of income support and supplementation is a more difficult one, as you will appreciate. I think if you have looked into it and you have gone back several years through the orange papers, you would see that the overview was such that we would look at the federal programme as well as the provincial and municipal programmes to try and rationalize the whole area of income support and supplementation. There is a whole area of income security. And at the federal level I think you have to remember that we have a number of programmes, including the unemployment insurance programme—which is more than an insurance; I think you will grant that.

We have to look at the pension programme. We have to look at the new spouse's allowance that was introduced in the interim. We have to look at the change in terms of the family allowances; at all of ingredients in terms of income support and supplementation.

But what happened as conferences proceeded over the years was that that area of federal responsibility and jurisdiction was carved out of the discussion, so we were left with programmes that were basically provincial. I don't have to spell them out for you. I mentioned the basic ones, such as our FBA and GWA, and supplementary assistance under those programmes. There is the GAINS programme and the whole area of tax rebate—whether it's property tax or

whether it's sales tax. There are other credits or assistance, such as free drugs and free hospital care and free medical care, and that type of thing. I suppose you could probably look at workmen's compensation as well.

Look at all of that—and then there was the proposition by the federal government to tack on another support or supplementation system. The member asked me why I was silent at the conference—I think that's what he was getting at. The newspaper reported that the Minister of Community and Social Services led the opposition. That's interesting but I didn't support that.

As a matter of fact, I said Ontario could not support that and, furthermore, we could not make a decision on that pending the first ministers' conference. At that first ministers' conference, I'm sure, there will be other fiscal arrangements which will be considered including, I would suspect, tax points instead of straight cost-sharing. Frankly, I could not see the addition of another plan to all of those we have without rationalizing our system. We're not going to eliminate everything and have one single solution but surely there must be some way of simplification and rationalization so that we don't end up with just another plan.

Mr. McClellan: I hope you are going to tell us what you are planning to do.

Mr. R. S. Smith: What is your alternative?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Certainly. I would be happy, when we get into it, to discuss that to any length because it is a very interesting subject which has been discussed for several years around here.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Three years.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's right. For three years. Correct.

Mr. R. S. Smith: And you have accomplished nothing.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I will be happy to do that. As a matter of fact, you talked about social services and the cost-sharing arrangements. As you know, under the Canada Assistance Plan, we have done very well in Ontario because we've been able to negotiate and work ourselves into our programmes with cost-sharing. Probably most of the other provinces haven't taken advantage of that cost-sharing arrangement as we have.

Mr. Deans: BC has.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Not to the same extent. The effect was to codify, if you will, the

proposals so you could pick out precisely which programmes would be cost-shared.

Mr. Deans: Why are you filibustering?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I'm not. I'm responding. If you had been here earlier, I think you would have understood that.

Mr. McClellan: I was here earlier and I'm still waiting for a response.

Mr. Nixon: Yes, where were you?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In any event, if you would like to have the details, the breakdown of the arrangement—we did discuss that; I certainly discussed it last February. It was discussed by my predecessors for years previous to that. I think that is pretty well set out and, of course, the concept is to put overall parameters on spending so that the moneys will be voted by Parliament and they will be final and not open-ended.

I don't wish to take the time of the estimates to read all of the particulars you asked me about but I would be happy to supply them to you if you wish it to be covered that way. I think it would address your particular area of inquiry.

I want you to know that we did become actively involved in that and we do have the breakdown. Again, in response to the question of manpower, the parallel system my friend from Bellwoods is talking about in terms of an Ontario manpower programme—advanced—would not be cost-shared under the rearrangement.

Mr. Deans: No, but it might be effective.

Mr. McClellan: It would work, though.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Just a minute. What I'm saying is that the basic responsibility for manpower is the federal government's.

Mr. Deans: That is only because—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think that's clear. The new agreement, which was worked out with all of the provinces, indicates and states that if the province gets involved in any programme or scheme which duplicates or parallels the federal scheme, we don't cost-share.

Frankly, that troubled me because it may be that these are defects or deficiencies in terms of the federal programmes which might be implemented in a casual way; or if we felt it didn't do the job we thought it should do—whether you get into the work activity

type of programme or what it is—we didn't want to be ejected from cost-sharing because the federal government had injected itself into that area of concern.

What I am saying is it is all very well to say what you might do, but you'd be doing it with 100 cent dollars because it would be paralleling the federal Manpower proposal and it wouldn't be cost-sharing.

Mr. McClellan: So you prefer to leave people on welfare rather than do what you need to do.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What are we doing? We're doing the constructive and, I suggest, the sensible thing.

Mr. Deans: Nothing. You are talking a lot and doing nothing.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We are working with Canada Manpower and that's the reason.

Mr. McClellan: We told you to do that five years ago.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right. Do you not agree?

Mr. McClellan: It took you five years.

Mr. B. Newman: Why all of a sudden?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I'm glad that you're happy about something that we're doing. In working with Canada Manpower and placing welfare workers with Canada Manpower, we've found that's been very successful.

Mrs. Campbell: You're not placing them, the municipality has been placing them.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In Hamilton, for example, that was done for some time and it's working out very well. It's that type of co-operative approach that I think is essential, rather than to talk about make-work programmes, which essentially the member for Bellwoods is talking about in his so-called parallel scheme.

Mr. McClellan: Complementary scheme.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You can call it a complementary scheme, but I'm saying that it certainly wouldn't be cost-shared. What you'd call it is the development of job opportunities. So, presumably, you will be making jobs.

Mr. Warner: We might negotiate with the federal government.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The provincial government's posture, our party's posture is to generate a very favourable economic climate.

Mr. McClellan: It's posturing.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's right. This is what we're doing—

Mrs. Campbell: Deliberately.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —to ensure that we can generate the necessary job opportunities, to provide jobs for people.

Mr. B. Newman: How do you provide the jobs?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's a part of our system. It's not a make-work programme; that's the difference. I don't think it's very constructive to talk in terms of make-work programmes.

Mrs. Campbell: He is unbelievable.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think the concept is to try to encourage a proper economic climate so that we have that job opportunity there, to work very closely—

Mr. McClellan: And 270,000 people out of work.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —as we are now with Canada Manpower.

Mr. Warner: It is 6.5 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I didn't wish to speak too long in reply. I thought we should get on to the votes and item-by-item discussion.

Mr. R. S. Smith: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the minister indicated he had not said that there was a 5.5 per cent curtailment on the expenditures of Children's Aid Societies, and I would like to quote from a speech he made on Feb. 12.

Mr. McClellan: That was in Hansard too; it is on the record.

Mr. R. S. Smith: He said:

Our current guidelines for Children's Aid Societies provide for an increase of 5.5 per cent in the ministry's share of the approved 1975 estimates, excluding any 1975 provisions for 1974 deficits.

I think that's pretty clear and concise and that was your policy.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's right. Just before we rise, may I say, absolutely, those were the guidelines and they're still the guidelines. If you read on with that speech you will see

what else I've said and also my remarks in addition. You were there at one of those meetings in connection with addressing these individual problems.

If you see the reference to the deficits, what I've done in most cases is picked up the deficits as well. We've looked after that.

Mr. R. S. Smith: You've changed your position completely.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We have not changed our position. Those are the guidelines in which we've introduced equity.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX

(See page 3169.)

Answers to questions were tabled as follows:

76. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry: Would each ministry list the civil servants receiving a salary in excess of \$20,000, their job classification, their function and the individual they report to?

Answer by the ministry:

Salaries of civil servants earning in excess of \$20,000, listed by ministry and by name of individual are published annually in the Public Accounts of the Province of Ontario.

85. Mr. Moffatt—Inquiry of the ministry: Has the Ministry of Natural Resources yet conducted a fisheries inventory and analysis of spawning habitat for Oshawa Second Marsh as was recommended on page 4 of the 1973 Division of Fish and Wildlife position paper: "While it should be implemented only as a last resort, fill operations can be prevented under the Fisheries Act (Canada). In order to be prepared for this eventuality, a proper fisheries inventory and analysis of spawning habitat should be conducted in 1974"?

Answer by the Minister of Natural Resources:

The position paper on Second Marsh prepared by the Division of Fish and Wildlife in 1973 was intended to focus attention on the serious threat to this valuable wetlands posed by proposed expansion of Oshawa harbour. Some of the recommendations were based on the assumption that a formal application by the Oshawa Harbour Commission for harbour development in Second Marsh was imminent. Because of the heavy workload facing our staff on environmental matters caused by urban and industrial development, efforts have been directed towards firm development proposals. Since no formal application has been made for harbour development in Second Marsh, the fisheries inventory work referred to has not been carried out.

Another factor has been the action of the Oshawa Harbour Commission in prominently posting the Second Marsh with "No Trespassing" signs and keeping the gate to the area locked.

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Welch, Hon. R.; Minister of Culture and Recreation (Brock PC)
Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)



Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Thursday, June 10, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES (continued)

On vote 2701:

Mr. Chairman: How do you wish to handle this vote 2701? Do you want to do it item by item?

Mr. Nixon: Item by item.

Mr. Haggerty: Item by item.

Mr. McClellan: If I may make a suggestion, Mr. Chairman, since about 90 per cent of the ministry's budget and programme are in votes 2702 and 2703, I suggest, if it's acceptable to all parties, that we try to move quickly through 2701.

Mr. Nixon: We will discuss nothing except important matters.

Ms. Gigantes: What?

Mr. McClellan: That's up to you.

Mr. Chairman: Do you want to go through 2701 item by item? If so, item 1, main office.

Item 1 agreed to.

Mr. Warner: Boy, that was quick.

Mr. Chairman: Item 2, social assistance review board.

Item 2 agreed to.

Item 3, policy analysis and financial planning.

Mr. McClellan: That was one item that I wanted to talk about.

Mr. Nixon: That's a very important one, I can tell you.

Mr. McClellan: It is. It deals with policy analysis and financial planning. I don't want to dwell on it except to say again, as I think I said in the spring estimates, this ministry's record in providing adequate social

planning data in order to plan rationally for the needs of the people it's serving is a rather dismal record.

Let me quote something again from the Swadron report of 1971, on page 5. They complained in their opening remarks about the paucity of data produced by the ministry and the difficulty of trying to develop employment opportunity programmes for the people, in this case on the general welfare assistance caseload, because they simply didn't know enough about the people to be able to do that kind of planning. The report says:

The March registration form describes a number of objective characteristics of the person, such as family size, age, health [etc.]. There is no information gathered about education, skills, employment record or other personal characteristics. Yet these items are absolutely essential to an assessment of this group's capabilities and potential.

Again they're talking about unemployed employables on general welfare assistance. It goes on:

The absence of this information is, to say the least, surprising. How can the disadvantaged be helped when we do not know what their full disadvantages are?

That's as true in 1976 as it was in 1971. The Swadron report recommended:

That the department formulate and develop a better service of comprehensive reporting of meaningful vital statistics relating to recipients of general welfare assistance so that it will be in a more favourable position to measure trends, forecast needs and plan accordingly.

I may be wrong, but I don't think I am, when I say that that hasn't been done in five years. When I was trying to gather data, particularly on general welfare assistance recipients, it simply wasn't available. Let me leave it at that and ask the minister whether he has any plans to improve the data collection system of this ministry.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, there is no question about it, data collection can al-

ways be improved. I suppose not just the collection but the utilization of that data. May I say this that—

Mr. McClellan: If you don't have it, you can't use it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I suppose that's elementary. But may I say this, that I have been concerned in terms of making sure that we have almost instant information available.

As you know, we have moved into the computer area. We have about 20 municipalities using computer systems—they have the self-contained systems at the municipal level. At the provincial level, we also have a computer system that operates for us in terms of family benefits. Of course, it handles all of the information on caseloads, all of the particulars in connection with the recipients of family benefits.

Our plan is to provide a hook-up with our 19 district offices. We are proposing and working on a terminal at each of the district offices so that we will have a rapid, two-way flow of information between the various field offices and the central office.

Mr. McClellan: I was aware of that. My concern is around the general welfare system—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right, I was going to come to that. In regard to the general welfare caseload, what we are doing is encouraging the municipalities to get involved. As you appreciate, we have been subsidizing the municipal administration in terms of the computers. We are working with them now to link up the various municipal systems so that they can talk to one another for exchange of information. Again, as you know, there may be persons who apply in different municipalities for general welfare assistance, and sometimes it's difficult to detect that. So, if we get the interchange of information among the municipalities, it will improve our system. We will link up the two systems so we can get a free flow of information. I think that's going to be a big improvement, and we plan on doing that without involving too much more money. We are probably spending about \$2 million a year in terms of computer time.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I have a couple of questions. I don't quite understand this vote. It wasn't included in last year's estimates. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am sorry. I didn't hear you.

Mr. R. S. Smith: This item as it is worded was not included in last year's estimates—policy and planning.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's right. It was under research.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Okay. Could you tell me if it is basically the same as the research vote last year?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It co-ordinates the planning policy of the government, research programme evaluation—this type of thing. It involves some of the studies that we have been doing on the whole field of income support supplementation, which we mentioned earlier. Papers were prepared on the different approaches that could be taken in that whole area. Actually, three branches were combined—research, financial planning and the income security secretariat.

Mr. R. S. Smith: The demonstration projects that are referred to at a cost of \$1,058,000 of transfer payments, how many of those are there? Are they mostly a carry-over from last year? Are the demonstration projects which have been carried out in regard to payment to the working poor included in this?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No. There are 16 projects; some of them certainly are carry-overs. For example, some are the type of project such as the one in York which the member for York South was interested in. There is the one from lakeshore—LAMP they call it—that type of project. There was one in Frontenac. That again is the type of project in there. For example, the LAMP project is fairly new. It has been approved since I became minister, which hasn't been too long. I know that one, for example, is new.

Mr. R. S. Smith: What type of project is that?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's a co-ordinated approach to social service delivery which would co-ordinate various aspects. They try to integrate the health aspect of social service with counselling and in some cases they may involve legal aid, that type of thing. They try to co-ordinate the various services within the community.

There was one in Guelph, too, which took a little different approach to it in terms of relating the lower income spectrum and some welfare recipients to the other persons in the community who were at different social levels. It's sort of a cross-pollination, an integration, of people and ideas. We have under

consideration projects worth about \$350,000, I guess.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I asked a question on whether this included any funds for the demonstration projects in regard to income supplement for the working poor. That's not here?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I'm sorry. No, that's not in here.

Mr. R. S. Smith: These are all one-shot transfer payments for definitive projects which aren't carried on; is that so?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Actually, in terms of one shot, they are not necessarily confined to one year. They may be over a period of three years and we budget for so much a year.

Mr. R. S. Smith: They are more community services, bringing together the different agencies and what not into a one-stop service which people can go to, is that it?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's right; basically that's it. It's a method of delivering a broad spectrum of social services.

Mr. R. S. Smith: That brings us to the whole question of the delivery of services which in some parts of the province is undertaken by four agencies which are all overlapping. This comes up every year. We do it here or we do it in the next vote—it's administration so I suppose we can do it here since you do have some demonstration projects in this area.

For example, in my area we have the municipal welfare department; we have your regional office; and, of course, we have your regional office which looks after the people on general welfare assistance who live in unorganized territory. We have actually four areas covered by different offices and people just don't know where to go. We've gone over this time and time again. There should be some type of amalgamation of these services so that they're all provided from one central area.

I know the area of the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) is different from this. It's much broader and it takes in the health field and many other fields but strictly in your area of consideration and concern, is there anything being done in that area toward a central service for those communities such as that?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I'm trying to focus in on what you're getting at. I surmise that

what you're concerned about is maybe an overlap or a confusion on the part of the public as to where to go for what service. We have 19 districts and we not only have the district offices but we have probably 100 offices in Ontario. We have field offices apart from the central office. With our 19 districts, we try to keep that well co-ordinated so that there's a free flow of information from a field office apart from a central office. In terms of programmes, we have attempted to co-ordinate—it's social planning really—the services to prevent duplication and overlap or competition for similar target groups. We work with the various social service agencies in each of these areas.

These demonstration projects are often multi-service centres where we try to bring together the services of a number of agencies, if possible within the same physical premise. If it's credit counselling, then they do credit counselling there and if it's family counselling, they have a family counselling service and so on.

You're also touching another area or hinting at it—that is, the question of some agency or some body that would be able to co-ordinate in the field the services that are there. Again, that would be a two-way flow. In other words, if there was a new service to be implemented, then it would go to this co-ordinating body or agency which would assess it and give it a cost-benefit analysis for recommendation before it was approved. We're dealing with maybe 4,000 agencies in the field. We fund probably at least half of those directly or indirectly. When you've got that many it's a matter of trying to utilize what you have in the field without working at cross purposes.

We have some communities—for example, in the Waterloo area—where they wish a body, an agency in some ways akin to the health council, that would function for social services. I know in the Ottawa area there has been some push for a similar type of agency or body there that could co-ordinate and makes sure presumably that the best utilization was made of the physical resources, the social services and dollars that are there. You're actually touching on a number of matters.

In response, we haven't resolved the problems in terms of creating another council or agency which would have sole jurisdiction to deal with the delivery of services in a particular area.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Last year your ministry was doing an internal study in regard to the

establishment of social planning councils. I think Mr. Williams, who used to be the head of your municipal welfare assistance programme, was involved in that insofar as setting up some type of social welfare councils that would be parallel to the health councils that are being established across the province. I really don't think that is the answer but how far did that get and what happened to that study?

Secondly, I would like a straight direct answer to this question because it has been studied about five years over there. What is happening to the turning over in the unorganized territories to the district social services boards of the administration of the General Welfare Assistance Act? In some areas you have people hopping over each other to service areas over here. It is patently ridiculous in the waste of funds and the waste of effort of professional people who are either being paid by you or by the district welfare board.

I would like an answer to those two questions as concisely as possible please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: On the first one dealing with the councils or agencies, without being repetitive we haven't made any decisions in terms of establishing a council which would parallel the health council.

I feel you have got to deal with agencies. There are going to be all kinds of agencies making end runs around those. There is a problem too because they handle GWA or FBA or such services. They can't handle them all because of technical statutory requirements. How do you avoid talking to some agency that wants to meet with the minister with some new concept and he is not prepared to go through a council? What jurisdiction or authority should there be or how do you structure a board like that? There are a lot of problems that you have to face there: I don't think they want to function just as advisory council. I haven't made any determination of that.

Again I think you hinted at something I have been very interested in and we have been helping with in terms of funding—that is, the single intake system for FBA and GWA. I am trying to avoid duplication in terms of application where someone may be applying for GWA and is told instead of going to the municipal office he had better go to the district office and apply for FBA and fill out a similar application by a different group of employees. At this time, you are dealing with the provincial employees.

We are trying that in several areas to see if we can avoid duplication or unnecessary work in that regard. It seems to be working out pretty well, which means that we could expand that further depending upon our experience. That's another area we are going into in that regard.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Are you indicating to me that you are considering taking over the administration of GWA?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, I am not saying that.

Mr. Chairman: One member on his feet at a time please.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I am trying to get him to reply.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. minister can't reply as long as you have got the floor. If you have asked the question, and if you yield the floor to him, then you will get an answer.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, I am not suggesting that the province take over general welfare assistance in that system but what I am suggesting is we might be able to get together in terms of a single intake system instead of having parallel systems in regard to taking in applications.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind, he didn't answer my other question in regard to unorganized territories, which I am sure the chairman understands.

Mr. Warner: And the chairman said he will get an answer.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In the north, our district directors handle the system. We pay 100 per cent of the cost.

Mr. R. S. Smith: That is not my question. My question is—and it has been for the last five years and your people have been studying it for that long—why in areas where there is a district welfare board—such as Nipissing, or such as surrounds the chairman's area in some instances—is that board not given the right to administer the general welfare assistance in the unorganized territories?

You have field workers who are passing each other on the road in their travels to these unorganized territories. They are going through organized territories, where the district has the jurisdiction, to get to the unorganized territories—and you have real duplication of travel. It's the identical same service, applying the identical same Act and the same programme—and it is ridiculous. I think your

ministry has looked at it for at least the last four or five years, and I can't understand what's taking them so long to come to that same conclusion.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am sorry. I think what you are referring to is the co-ordinating effort between the organized and unorganized areas. If you are, I talked with Dr. Chaquotte in Thunder Bay in February. He undertook a study, which he has promised to have completed by June 30, and it is to provide recommendations in regard to delivery of services for organized and unorganized areas. Maybe that type of thing is what you had in mind.

Mr. R. S. Smith: What I am suggesting is that when you have a district board, and there are unorganized territories within that district board, that they do it. All I am suggesting is to take it out of the hands of your direct administration and put it into the hands of the district board, because they have the people going in the same area.

Mr. McClellan: I had intended to raise this at a later vote, but since it came up, maybe we could pursue it for a few minutes. It is the question of municipal administration of the General Welfare Assistance Act. We are aware that a number of provinces have moved in the direction of assuming provincial responsibility for income maintenance, leaving free the development of a decentralized social service delivery system without having to worry about the administration of an income maintenance programme.

That's being done in a number of jurisdictions with some success. I understand that Manitoba is at least moving in the direction of assuming provincial responsibility for income maintenance.

I expect we will have some interesting recommendations from the Robarts commission, hopefully this fall, around a decentralized social service delivery system—hopefully a community-based social service delivery system—and I will relate back to an exchange a few minutes ago between yourself and the member for Nipissing around a health council model of some kind.

What rationale can you give us against assuming responsibility for income maintenance, assuming on the one hand that you plan some kind of a rationalization eventually of the different categorical programmes? What justification is there for leaving the general welfare assistance administration at the municipal level? You have a dual administrative apparatus that is incredibly costly. It ought to be possible to effect some

real cost savings and some real efficiencies, particularly if you yourselves are moving to a district office base for the balance of your provincial programme.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I don't think it necessarily means a cost saving in terms of administration—that's problematical. True, you say it may or may not be possible. We are moving more in terms of decentralization. We are also taking on more responsibility. An added one, for example, is the assumption of drug costs in whole, which will mean the municipalities will not be responsible for the 20 per cent of those costs. We feel that in that case we can administer the programme again centrally, really, at a sum that would not exceed what the municipalities are paying.

[8:30]

Mr. McClellan: May I ask whether you are doing any studies of the relative cost benefits of the one system or the other, or whether your ministry is actually at the present time giving any thought to assuming jurisdiction of municipal welfare administration?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Not as such. If you are asking me whether we're studying whether or not the province should take over the whole area of income support supplementation—that part of it that would be administered by the municipalities—as such, no. What we have considered, of course, in conjunction with the whole field of income security, is a federal-municipal-provincial sharing, and assessing where that might be done best—at what level, instead of having a duplication of systems. You're talking about the province and municipalities.

Mr. R. S. Smith: That's part of the orange book.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's right. But in your orange book you're also involving the federal level. It may very well be that the jurisdiction that controls your tax system might be the best agency, because when you get into these systems—and there we're into some variations of guaranteed annual income and that type of thing, or support supplementation where you're helping the working poor in effect—the tax system at one level starts to operate at, say, \$6,000 and then at the same point you have a supplementation system working up to, say, \$10,500.

On the one hand you have a taxing authority which is taking away money that hard-working people earn, only to have them go back into a welfare type of system to apply for supplementation or support and to

recover part of what they have already paid out in taxes. That's why I feel it's easier for, say, the Province of Quebec, which controls its tax system more so than we do in Ontario, to get into a more rational system. Our consideration was directed toward the responsibility of the federal government getting more involved in that, rather than the province.

So we have considered it. We have considered specific items in terms of municipal responsibilities, such as the drug item, which we have taken over. We've worked with them in terms of co-ordination, for example, on an overall plan for dental care that the municipalities could come into. No matter how small or how large the municipality is, we'll share in that plan and they can do it, we feel, more economically, and have the advantage from us working out our province-wide plan with the Ontario Dental Association.

So there are moves like that that we have made. But insofar as takeover, no; insofar as consideration of single intake systems, yes.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I have a few questions and comments I'd like to make in regard to another study that is being carried out within your ministry. I presume it would come under policy analysis. It may be a remonstrance project for receiving transfer payments, I don't know.

It's on the question of adoptions. As I understand it, there is a committee that has been looking into the whole area of adoptions and it is chaired by one of the people from your ministry. I think it's the head of adoption services in your ministry. I understood the report was to be in last week. Could the minister tell me whether he has received that report yet or not?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, I haven't. That committee, I may say, is under Mrs. Victoria Leach from the ministry. I did set up that committee because of a concern expressed in terms of the release of information about the triangle—the adopted child, the natural parents and the adopting parents. It's a very sensitive area and as you know some information was being released through the Children's Aid Societies which was disturbing. I thought it a matter of such sensitivity and importance that we should really study it objectively.

I did set up that committee. As you know it's composed of quite a broad spectrum of people. They've held hearings throughout the province. I was asked if I would give them

a little extra time within which to report because apparently other jurisdictions have been interested in the work of this committee. That being so, I think they wanted to do as thorough a job as possible without unnecessarily prolonging their report. I am expecting that report fairly soon but I haven't had it as yet.

Mr. R. S. Smith: On the same subject, I want to make a few comments. I'm sure the minister is aware of this and I'm hopeful that that committee will make some specific recommendations in this area because there are some real concerns particularly among adopted children who, when they become adult, cannot get information in regard to their parents.

It is rather a traumatic experience for many of them to be refused information as to who their parents are or were and their background—whether they were French or English or of Ukrainian origin, this type of thing. All of this is refused to them once they find out that they are adopted children.

Many of them don't find out until they're 12 or 13 and it creates great problems for them as individuals to cope with the idea that they are adopted. There is always the gnawing sensation that they don't know from where they came and they're being denied the right to find out.

I would suggest that for the future there can be set up some type of registration system by which all this information can be put on file with the consent of the natural parent. It could be made available without the name of the natural parent—the mother or the father—being made available to the adopted person. Following that, of course, is the opportunity for the natural parent to find out if the adopted child, when it grows to adulthood, wishes to meet the natural parent.

There is an organization, which you're aware of as well as I, called Parent Finders which is very active in this community. It's trying to provide this service to these adult people who wish to find out their background, and to the natural parent—either male or female but in most cases the female—who wishes to find out what has happened to the child but doesn't have the opportunity to do so.

I would hope, if this is the recommendation of that committee, that it be accepted and that co-ordinating all this information be placed under one responsibility—of course with the caveat that the adopted person has the right to find out what she or he asks for

contingent upon what direction the natural parent has given to the organization which will hold this information. I think that would look after in the future many of the problems that these people run into.

I also believe if they desire there should be made available to them their first birth certificate, that being the one that contains their actual true name. If they want to find that out, I don't think that should be denied to them. On the other hand, as you are aware, this would have to be handled in a very discreet fashion because the adoptive parents have also to be considered. I do believe that there should be some consideration for them as well in that they feel they have—and rightfully so, in most cases—provided a home and an upbringing for the child.

In many cases, as I understand it, the adoptive parents are willing to help their children find out what their background was and in some cases arrange a meeting with the natural mother. Because of the way this is being handled now and the secrecy that surrounds the original birth certificate and the information from the Children's Aid Societies, etc., this is in many cases impossible. Some of these people seem to believe that they do live in a rather unreal world because they don't know their true background and they wish to know it.

I should hope this committee would recommend something of that nature. For those who are older now this would not work because much of the information cannot be made available. I do believe the original birth certificate information could be made available to them. With some amendments to some of the Acts within your ministry, more information as to the actual birth, if the adoption has taken place through an agency, could be made available. Private adoptions may be a lot more difficult but at the time of adoption the arrangement through the private agency or the private lawyer or whoever is involved in the private adoption should be placed in that area where that person's name would at least be available to answer any questions that he or she could answer within the bounds of the wishes of the natural parent. I realize it's a very complicated area but it is a very important area for a small minority of people.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There is a concern, as you have expressed, in terms of the creation of a central registry. In that central registry it's a matter of the information that would be available there. I am concerned with the

development of a policy that would apply province-wide so that we didn't have the latitude from area to area and agency to agency. If there was a central registry created then there would be a bank presumably from which you could draw that information.

[There is also a sensitivity in connection with what type of information should you be able to get. Identifying information is one thing and maybe medical records or histories of natural parents and so on are another item. We've found, and I have turned up at a number of these meetings, that there are often extreme differences of view from people, some believing you should know nothing about your ancestry or your natural parents, and others that there should be complete and full disclosure.]

I am looking forward to the report, frankly, because I know the committee has been working very hard. I certainly wouldn't want to anticipate what its recommendations might be because I have no idea. It is a very sensitive area and I think we're going to have to come up with some provincial policy which is consistent and which maybe is not freely available. As I say, there has to be some type of control on it.

[8:45]

Mr. R. S. Smith: I indicated that I believe there should be some type of safeguard insofar as some of the information is concerned and it should only be provided if one of the other parties is willing that it be provided and what not. The only other thing I would ask you about in regard to the setting up of this agency, if, in fact, this does come about, is: Do you believe it should be within government or should it be without government, although likely it would have to be funded by government?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I would want to see the report on that because I think we have to respect the privacy of that information and I wouldn't want it to be readily accessible. Personally, I haven't considered that aspect of it; I have thought about it but I haven't concluded anything. I am keeping a completely open mind until I do get the recommendations because it is a most experienced committee in terms of the membership. I have been at some of their meetings where people have really opened up.

I don't know whether you turned up at the one we had at the Macdonald Block, but it was really heart-warming to have those people come forward to that committee. There were persons who were adopted and

parents who had adopted children, not only the adopting parents but the natural birth parents. Their different views and the way they opened up their heart and gave their views was really a traumatic experience for me as minister. Knowing the sensitivity of the issue and the difference in views, frankly I am reserving my judgement until I hear fully from the committee as to its findings in the different areas of Ontario.

Mr. McClellan: We do seem to be bogging down in this vote, despite what I thought was an understanding, but so be it.

Mr. R. S. Smith: We had an understanding of two hours.

Mr. McClellan: We have a statement that the mini ter gave us today with respect to his new programme—I suppose his claims of success for his new programme. I think that legitimately the evaluation of the effectiveness of that programme could fall within the purview of policy analysis and financial planning.

On Tuesday, June 8, 1976, there was an exchange at question period between the minister and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis). The Leader of the Opposition raised the question of the Ottawa statistics which the minister has provided for us today. The minister responded that if there is one municipality on which his programme would have a decided impact, it would be Metropolitan Toronto. He added: "I would ask the hon. member to look at those figures."

You are going to have to excuse us for being, let me say frankly, suspicious and slightly incredulous with respect to your figures. Your ministry doesn't have the best record among ministries. We haven't unfortunately had time adequately to asses the figures ourselves. Commissioner Anderson, for example, has been with you in Owen Sound and his staff were unwilling to talk to us in his absence and your staff seem to be unwilling to respond to my phone call. You did provide us with the Metropolitan Toronto figures and I have to say to you they make no sense to me.

Mr. Chairman: If I might address myself to the hon. member for Bellwoods, it would seem to me that that would come under vote 2702, income maintenance or social services rather than the fine line of policy analysis and financial planning. When you are dealing with specific municipalities, it would seem to me it would be more appropriate to bring it up under vote 2702.

Mr. McClellan: With respect, Mr. Chairman, I am not dealing with a matter that is peculiar to a municipality or to income maintenance. I'm trying to raise the question of the credibility of the ministry's policy analysis function. Frankly, I want to question some of the data that was given today. The application of the data is irrelevant in terms of which programme it falls into. The question is the confidence in the policy analysis function; and I'd like to proceed if I may.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Sure. I'm glad you raised that.

Mr. McClellan: Well, I'm not finished.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Okay. I'll wait till you finish.

Mr. Conway: No such luck.

Mr. McClellan: You indicated in your communication to the Legislature today that the total general welfare assistance caseload in Metropolitan Toronto dropped from 11,538 in May, 1975, to 10,748 in May, 1976. Mr. Chairman, my figures on the caseloads in Metropolitan Toronto don't conform to that at all. My figure is that in December, 1975, the general welfare assistance caseload in Metropolitan Toronto was 21,951—not very close to your figure of May, 1975, of 11,538.

My figure for the welfare caseload of Metropolitan Toronto, which was given to me by Commissioner Anderson in February, was 22,414. You have asserted that in May, 1976, the caseload was 10,748.

You have claimed that the total number of employables rose from 25,000 in May, 1975, to 26,000 in April, 1976. Commissioner Anderson's figures, which he gave me, are as follows: in January, 1976, there were employables on the Metro caseload of 8,211. In December, 1975, there were employables on the caseload of 8,009.

What kind of nonsense have you been dishing out to this Legislature, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well, if you had permitted me to make a correction, I was going to point out that—and it's not Commissioner Anderson; it's Commissioner Ray Tomlinson.

Mr. McClellan: Tomlinson, right.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I do have his data that was delivered here on June 7. I did wish to correct at least that one paragraph of my statement. I thank you for the opportunity, because I was happy that you did raise it. I had intended to correct it.

Actually, I don't think I can accept your figures. I'm just reading them from what I have from Metropolitan Toronto. But the total general welfare assistance caseload increased from 19,365 in May, 1975 to 19,531 in May, 1976—an increase of approximately one per cent—while the employables caseload declined from 6,196 in May, 1975, to 5,740 in May, 1976, or approximately seven per cent. The figures were unfortunate, but the conclusion was the same. There was a drop of seven per cent in regard to the employables.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, I would hope that the minister could take the time and trouble to obtain the accurate figures, month by month, from the beginning of 1975 until the present time, and give them to us in an accurate version. Again, I haven't had an opportunity to carefully analyse the figures, because we just received them. But it seems to me that there are some interesting discrepancies in the material you've presented. You've selected your periods of time very conveniently. You've juxtaposed caseloads over selected periods of time in order to make the statistical evidence suit your desires. Since I'm rather lousy at rapid calculation I'll come back to this matter on a subsequent vote.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Just in response, Mr. Chairman, if I may. I sometimes read the papers too, maybe not as carefully as my friend from Bellwoods. But I can say this, early in the year, back in March when the caseload started to fall, the credit was given to our programmes as the reason for the declining caseload. As a matter of fact, I was at Owen Sound on Monday where I spoke to Commissioner Tomlinson, who seemed elated—and I don't think I'm being extravagant in using that particular language—in regard to their experience with declining caseloads for the employables.

I appreciate your criticism and your scepticism, but I think it's going to be pretty hard to refute that what we have demonstrated is correct: That is, through the tightening up of the eligibility requirements there is a declining caseload—plus our Manpower linkups, of course.

Mr. McClellan: That may well be. I'm quite open to being convinced, if you can provide us with some meaningful figures that aren't a mish-mash of nonsense. For example, in May—again, I missed your figures. Let's assume you had caseloads and

employables reversed on the sheet. Is that a correct interpretation?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes, we have, if I could repeat—do you want to take the figures down?

Mr. McClellan: I think it's important.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right. The general welfare assistance caseload increased from 19,365 in May, 1975, to 19,531 in May, 1976—

Mr. McClellan: And the employables?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —which is an increase of approximately one per cent. The employables caseload declined from 26,196 in May, 1975, to 25,740 in May, 1976, which is approximately seven per cent.

Mr. McClellan: How are you determining these employables? I have a statistical sheet from Commissioner Tomlinson that lists the number of employables on the caseload of the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto: employables in December, 1975, 14,224 persons; employables in November, 1975, 12,906. I simply don't understand what kind of statistical material you're throwing around. I have Mr. Tomlinson's printout of his monthly caseloads and it bears no relationship to the figures that you're giving us at all. Would you not concede that? I have it here, here's his signature. It's a perfectly bona-fide document.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I'm not going to debate on our sheets.

Mr. McClellan: I suggest that your sheets are wrong.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I admit that I may be wrong. I'm certainly not infallible.

Mr. McClellan: I suggest to you that you are wrong.

[9:00]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The ministry is not infallible. By the same token it might be possible for you to be wrong, too.

Mr. McClellan: Before you run around this province claiming tremendous success for the programme, it might be worth your while to get the right figures. You should take a little time to make sure that you know what you're talking about before you go to the press and before you come to this Legislature with what you allege is statistical proof of the success of a programme.

I point out again that you said to the Leader of the Opposition, "Look at the Metro figures." I'm telling you I don't think you've even got the Metro figures. I don't think those figures you have represent the employable caseload in Metropolitan Toronto at all. From the figures I have they bear more relationship to the unemployable caseload for Metropolitan Toronto which is in the vicinity of 25,000 to 26,000.

I would suggest that you get on the blower to Commissioner Tomlinson and try to find out exactly what his figures are; get them month by month for the last 15 months, bring them back to us and let us see if we can make some sense out of them.

While I'm on the subject I think I'll point out to you that your material on family benefits is equally bizarre. Fun with figures is all very nice but this is really something. On page 2, if you would compare the increase in family benefits from Jan. 30 to May 30 of this year you will find that the family benefits assistance caseload increased from 100,033 to 103,035. In the same period last year the family benefits assistance caseload increased from 90,349 to 94,775, an increase of five per cent.

Over the 15-month period we're talking about there's been a 15 per cent increase in family benefit caseloads. That could have an important bearing on the relationship between any fluctuation in the general welfare assistance caseload over the same period of time.

You will have to excuse me but when I see those kinds of cooked numbers I get very suspicious. I start to lose my generally open-hearted credulity. I become cynical. I become jaundiced. I begin to think that people are trying to put something over me and I think even on the basis of this little paragraph on page 2 I have good grounds for feeling that way. I don't think it's paranoid at all. I think it's good common sense to be rather suspicious of this ministry.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, I don't wish to get involved in an unnecessarily prolonged statistical debate. I can share the commissioner's figures I have—which I admit is a photostat copy with his signature photostated—if they will be of some assistance. I don't purport to have the infinite wisdom of my friend and it's possible that I could be wrong but we do try to be truthful.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Chairman, there are two matters I would like to discuss with the minister for a moment. He has referred to-

night to the terminal programme which has been instituted. I am very delighted to hear that since I requested that this ministry do this and was advised last year that it would not be effective.

I take it that there has been a rethinking of the use of terminals and that they are satisfactory, giving better and faster service to the people in the outlying parts of the province where the service was distinctly bad before, according to those who are more experienced than I am in that area.

The other thing I want to speak to on this particular vote is, the minister may recall that during—I guess I should say the interruption with my speech in answer to the Speech from the Throne—he did indicate that I was in error that I indeed knew that there would be a project going on this year in the child abuse area. Could the minister tell me whether that is, in fact, true and if it is reflected in the moneys allocated in this vote?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In response to those two questions—and I certainly appreciate your concurrence in terms of the computer terminals—

Mrs. Campbell: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —I must confess I don't care where the ideas come from. If they're good ideas and if they can streamline the system—make it more economical and efficient—let's do it.

In regard to the child abuse; again, it's in the social services vote. I don't mind discussing it now if you wish.

Mrs. Campbell: Fine. I thought it would be under research here. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Shall item 3 carry? Carried.

Item 4? Carried.

Item 5? Carried.

Item 6, financial and administrative services? Carried.

Item 7?

Mr. R. S. Smith: I have just one short question here, Mr. Chairman. I would like the minister to explain to me the cut in the allocation of transfer payments and grants from \$534,000 last year to \$294,000 this year.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: All right. Did you wish the total number of grants and so on? We have 18—and I have them all itemized, if you wish—totalling \$294,000.

Mr. R. S. Smith: We have all that.

Mr. Chairman: It's on page S-25.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What did you wish to know?

Mr. R. S. Smith: I want to know where the reduction was from \$534,000 to \$294,000, which is a reduction of—what?—\$250,000 or 50 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Excuse me for the delay, but I had \$302,000 in the estimate for last year, which isn't that much different, so I'll see if I can—

Mr. R. S. Smith: Mr. Chairman, I looked up the estimates and I found \$534,000, but it may have also included the grants for the Association for the Mentally Retarded where there is a very large cut of \$160,000. That may make up for it. I now see that's in a later vote.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes. I have \$302,800 for the 1975-1976 estimates and \$294,000 for this year.

Mr. R. S. Smith: So the 11.7 per cent increase in your overall expenditure is not applicable in this vote?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In terms of an overall increase in spending, you mean? No, it wasn't calculated that way.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Okay. That is all I have.

Mrs. Campbell: Would the minister bring us up to date on the ongoing volume of work performed by the Soldiers Aid Commission? I am delighted to assist veterans at all times, but really this is an ongoing item and I have never yet understood what the volume of work is and why it continues in this vote.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes, I'm very conscious of that. I became conscious of that matter not only through here, but if I'm not mistaken, through a public accounts reference some years ago. I did take a look at that and it's a matter of administration of the money that is there. Frankly, I have been considering it and have in fact drafted a bill which would provide for the repeal of that legislation. I'm glad that the member for St. George acknowledges support for that. It's not a question of doing away with the work of the commission.

Mrs. Campbell: I know that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's a matter of structuring it and probably putting it under a special account through the regular provincial accounts.

Mrs. Campbell: Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Item 7 agreed to.

Vote 2701 agreed to.

On vote 2702:

Mr. R. S. Smith: I have a couple of short questions here. This had to do with the administration both in Toronto and in the regional offices, I presume. Is that correct? I am referring particularly to the salaries and wages. Is that just the administration of family benefits or what is that?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Yes, that's correct.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Again I ask, is there any consideration being given to moving this out into the districts which it serves, in other words, having decision-making power in regard to family benefits moved out into the regional office?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No, there hasn't been consideration of that. Without repeating myself, the consideration is in terms of strengthening our field office operations, but not in terms of transferring our central office to the field.

Mr. Chairman: Item 1 agreed to. On item 2.

Mr. McClellan: Item 2 deals with income maintenance and I have a number of areas I want to cover. The estimates in this ministry are frankly unusual in that so many separate programmes and so much money are crammed together in so relatively few votes. If I can make a suggestion for future years, it would be a lot more helpful and would promote a more useful debate if the estimates of this ministry could be broken down more discretely.

I alluded in my leadoff, to the need to rationalize the categorical programmes of this province. They remain as mysterious and nonsensical to me today as they did some 12 years ago when I was a welfare worker in the ministry. They made no sense then; they make no sense now. And they make no sense to most of your staff now. The people who are charged with the responsibility of taking applications under your legislation can make no more sense out of the programmes than I can, or than the people who are served can.

I have a memo from staff, whom I don't think I need to identify. It's an internal memorandum of your ministry that expresses some real concern about the inability of the

field staff to distinguish any more than we can distinguish or clients can distinguish—

[9:15]

Mr. Warner: That's one the shredder didn't get.

Mr. McClellan: —between disabled persons and permanently unemployable people. If I may quote it to you, it says it better than I could say it:

The similarity between the two definitions, disabled persons and permanently unemployable persons, is apparent. Both mention the inability of a person to work for a long period of time. In both cases, this must be shown with evidence to the medical advisory board. While there may appear to be some differences, no important distinctions can be drawn from the definitions as they now stand. In fact, as it appears, all those who are disabled are also permanently unemployable. One category and one only should be used as applicable. This must be clearly defined and comprehensible to field workers, applicants and doctors through a revised form 4 that will present all useful and relevant information as specifically as possible. The lack of clarity has led many to feel that decisions of the medical advisory board at present are largely arbitrary and often contradictory. [That certainly is our experience.] This is not to imply that flexibility is unnecessary but that vague definitions implied inconsistently serve no useful purpose for anyone concerned.

Mr. Warner: Where was this from?

Mr. McClellan: It's an internal staff memorandum dated June 9, 1975.

Mr. Warner: The shredder didn't get it.

Mr. McClellan: Shredder or no shredder, your staff have been saying the same thing for a long time now.

Mr. Warner: And who listens?

Mr. McClellan: It's about time that you moved to end the absurdity of a categorical distinction that cannot be distinguished by your own staff. How is a field worker supposed to go into a person's home and complete the form 11 when they can't tell themselves what the distinction is between the categories? It's utterly ludicrous.

They point as well in this internal memorandum to the lack of a psychiatrist on the medical advisory board. Is that still the situation, if I may add by way of a second

question? Is there a psychiatrist on the medical advisory board? How is the medical advisory board supposed to determine disability when the disability is an emotional impairment? Year after year we raise the same points. I've checked back over Hansard and seen that previous critics have raised the same points with successive ministers and we still have the ludicrous situation of categorical distinctions.

Let's not forget what this means. It means a real difference in money to people, a substantial difference in money to people. It means the difference between the GAINS level which, if it were raised, would be adequate. If you would give them a cost of living increase, it would approach adequacy. The family benefit levels are frankly substandard. It's about time you eliminated the permanently unemployable category. Abolish it. Do away with it. There's no justification for that kind of inequity. I'd appreciate a response.

I understand you're moving in the direction of trying to rationalize your programmes. Again, I remain utterly sceptical that this ministry has the capacity to rationalize its programmes. One can always express optimism. We've been expressing optimism now for years and years and years. We can express it again this year. You did allude earlier to plans that you had to try and make some sense out of your income maintenance programme. With the social security review under way, it seems to be a great opportunity for you to do it. What are you going to do?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: As the member has pointed out, it is an old chestnut; I will grant you that. It is a definition that I have struggled with.

Mr. McClellan: Nothing is done.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There is a difference sometimes difficult to distinguish in the field. That is why we have the medical advisory board. That is why we have medical reports coming from the field because how can a field worker tell whether a person who had a heart condition was permanently unemployable.

Mr. Bain: Why make the distinction? What is the real difference?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I will tell you what the real difference is in terms of definition for cost-sharing, if I may.

Mr. Bain: Tell me what the difference is.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: At present, a disabled person is defined as one who has a physical or mental impairment that is likely to continue for a prolonged time and is severely limited in activities of normal living. A permanently unemployable person is defined as a person unable to engage in remunerative employment for a prolonged time.

Mr. Bain: How is this different in terms of a person being able to go out and get a job?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There may be a person who is permanently disabled who cannot even get out of his own home. He is completely disabled and needs services in his own home. There may be another person who may be permanently unemployable but he can get around. He may be a person who has had a heart attack, for example. It is often a question as to the severity in what he can do. He may be classified as permanently unemployable. That person may be unemployable for a certain type of work but employable for another type of work.

Mr. McClellan: Surely the distinction is utterly meaningless. You can make those kinds of academic distinctions which then become almost impossible administratively to operate. The subjective difference for me if I am permanently unemployable or disabled is irrelevant. I need an income. If by definition I am unable to work, the need is the same. In terms of need, there is no difference.

Why should you so discriminate? Why continue this utter absurdity? It perpetuates a great deal of unnecessary suffering on people. It perpetuates inequities in benefit levels of a very substantial nature. It perpetuates a more complex administrative structure than is necessary. There is no rationale for it. The most compelling argument of all is simply the one of need. Both groups of people, which in your mind are different, are the same in their need. They cannot work and they need an income. Why don't you simply rationalize the programme and equalize the benefits and meet the need?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In response to that, I don't accept the proposition that the need is the same.

Mr. McClellan: Nothing is done.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Very basically, it is on the basis of the extra need that we cost-share with the federal government.

Ms. Gigantes: Is that the definition?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There is a difference between a person who is totally incapacitated and confined to his home who may need something that a person who is not confined to his home does not need. It is on that distinction that we are able to cost-share with the federal government.

Mr. Warner: That is your real concern, getting federal dollars.

Mr. R. S. Smith: On this same point, I would just like to make a few remarks. This is about the tenth time we have gone over this same thing in the last ten years and I am sure that the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Brunelle) who is sitting behind you well knows how many times the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) and myself have gone over this differentiation between permanently unemployable and disabled. The only difference is that we get a different argument from you than we used to get from the last minister. The last minister was always going to look into this and have it straightened out. He never did get around to it.

Mr. Warner: In the fulness of time.

Mr. R. S. Smith: We developed the GAINS programme but we still have that differentiation between the disabled and the unemployable. You say they have a different cost of living. That may be true in about one or two per cent of the cases, but I know people who are on the GAINS programme who could get around and look after themselves and have all the facilities of living that the unemployables have and there's no difference in the needs of those people insofar as their need for dollars and cents to exist it concerned.

Mr. Warner: Absolutely.

Mr. R. S. Smith: They all have to eat the same way. They have the same shelter costs. Basically they have all the same needs because they are all people. They all have the same basic needs.

The way you put it to us tonight is a little different. You've indicated that there is a differential in the cost-sharing between yourselves and the federal government if a person is considered disabled or considered unemployable. I'd like you to explain to me where in the Canada Assistance Plan that difference is outlined.

Second, I would like you to explain to me how your medical advisory board makes decisions based on medical evidence provided to it, by the doctor who does the actual examination. In spite of the fact the doctor may have checked square No. 4 on the back

of the form that says he's permanently disabled and on the front part of the application form has outlined his disability as being some type of heart condition or some other disabling disease, your medical advisory board can then say, "We don't believe the medical doctor who made this examination. We think this fellow is only unemployable."

The medical profession in this province in many cases has come to the point where it refuses to fill out these forms any more. They say it's a waste of time: "People ask what our medical opinion is, we give it to them, and a decision is made on a basis directly opposite to the opinion we give."

I would like you to explain those things to us for the tenth time and be specific as to what the difference is in the needs of those two people. Don't tell me what the needs of people with heart conditions are or with arthritis or this type of thing. They are no different; they are all the same; they all have to eat and they all have to sleep; they all have to live the same way. If you could tell me how they differ I'd like to know.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In effect you are saying we did a tremendous job in being able to increase the allowance to certain persons whom we could distinguish as persons with a greater need because they were permanently disabled—because it was on the basis of being able to distinguish and define a category that we did participate with the federal government in obtaining additional money which we could pass on to those recipients. So we've done well there, but everything costs money.

Mr. McClellan: That's not the same.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We are trying to get more money.

Mr. Deans: You should talk to the Provincial Auditor.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We are trying to get more money for those people who are more severely disabled, and we have been successful in that. You may say it's an artificial classification and I must confess that there are cases where it is very difficult to distinguish—

Mr. Deans: You could find a way.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —I'd be less than honest if I didn't. But at the same time, we were able to do this for a certain category of persons who could be defined as permanently disabled as opposed to permanently unemployable. In that way we obtained additional

moneys for that group of persons. With respect, I really don't think that we should belittle the additional money that we've been able to get for some of the group. What you're now saying is why didn't we get it for the rest of the group? We are doing what we can to help everybody but at least we have a little more money for some of the case load through federal cost sharing.

[9:30]

Mr. Deans: I want to tell you first of all, you sound more like a bookkeeper than a minister. The problem which comes through, as far as your approach to the matter is concerned, is this: If you can get money from the federal government you will classify them one way; if you can't you will classify them another way; and if you can't you will pay them less.

Can you explain to me how it is any more the responsibility or fault of the individual who is permanently unemployable than it is of the person who is permanently disabled? How can you victimize the individual simply because, in the one case, they are permanently unemployable for any number of reasons over and against another person who may have become permanently disabled?

That is what you are doing. You are looking at two people and you are saying that neither can fit into the work force. If you are capable of getting into the work force, you would not qualify for either of these allowances. On the one hand you have a person who is classified in some magical way as being permanently unemployable. On the other hand, you have a person who is unemployable as the result of a permanent disability. You are saying that one is worth more to this society than the other or his needs are greater. That is a lot of nonsense.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am not saying that.

Mr. Deans: That is what you are doing by virtue of the way in which you pay them. You don't have to say it in words; you show it in your actions. Here you have two people, sitting side by side, neither of whom fits into the work force; neither of whom is able to leave his place of residence and find employment. You turn around and because you have set up some mythical method of determining their disability, whatever it may be, you say one is permanently unemployable and the other is permanently disabled.

That just doesn't wash. They both shop in the same Loblaws store. They both pay rent to the same OHC unit, presumably, yet you

find yourself in the position of paying one more than the other.

It may well be, let me tell you, more difficult for the individual who is permanently unemployable than it is for the one who may be classified by you as being totally disabled. It may be more difficult because that individual may not be able to understand, for example, why he can't work. That individual may be suffering, and likely is suffering, from all of the trauma that goes along with thinking he should be working but is not able to. At least the others have been able to rationalize their disabilities. I have never quite understood why you would draw the distinction and now you have told me why.

The reason you draw the distinction has nothing to do with the individual people at all, absolutely nothing. It has to do with whether or not you are able to trip off to Ottawa and get a few dollars to offset the cost to the Province of Ontario. Let me tell you something—if there is an area within all your ministry where you couldn't possibly get any flak if you paid a reasonable level of payment it would be in these areas here.

You may run into some difficulty over payment of general welfare. You may run into some difficulty over payment in some other areas but let me tell you no one in the Province of Ontario would deny that the people who are disabled or who are classified as permanently unemployable, for whatever reason, should receive an allowance sufficient to allow them to live reasonably in this society. Not one single person. Not even a Tory supporter. Not even in Prince Edward-Lennox. Let me tell you that just in case you are worried.

That's why I don't understand. If you are telling me that the person who is permanently disabled, who may be in bed and may require nursing care or some kind of additional help, has to get more than the other, you begin by establishing the same base rate for both which is adequate. In the event that there is a group of individuals who require additional care by virtue of their disabilities, you pay them an additional sum for that purpose. You don't turn around and deprive the other group of an adequate level of income simply because you want to draw a false distinction between the two groups. I think that's what we've been trying to get through here, and not just this year and not only to you. I've got to confess that you're not the first and you will likely not even be the last if they change you before the next election.

I can recall having much the same discussion with the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Brunelle) in the Legislature when he was in charge of this ministry. I can recall how they were doing an analysis of the various groups. They were going through them one by one—does he remember that?—to see if they couldn't transfer them from the one to the other because they realized there were problem areas.

Why would we go to the expense and the difficulty? Why would we do that? What is it about two people, one who may have a physical disability brought on by an illness or a disease and one who may be impaired in some way or another to the extent that he is unemployable? Why would we draw some distinction between the two of them and determine, for some reason or other, that one needs more money to live than the other? Why would you do that? What possible rationale can there be for it?

I can think of all kinds of people, without going into examples, who are unemployable, and that's not their fault. They are unemployable in the true sense of the word. No one would employ them. But their needs are just like other people's needs. They still have to eat, they still have to find a place to live, they still have to live a reasonable kind of life throughout whatever life span they've got. We make it even more difficult for them because we begin by paying them less than is required. Then we move from there to say that, if for some reason or other they happen to be in what my colleague over here from Nipissing may say is a more fortunate group that happens to have a heart attack, a stroke or whatever and become disabled as a result of that—because of a physical disability, a permanent disability—they're worth more. It ain't so.

Mr. Warner: Just say you're wrong.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's not a question of who's worth more.

Mr. Deans: That's all it is. That's exactly what you mean.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We don't pretend to try to evaluate that.

Mrs. Campbell: You are doing that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's not a question of victimizing people. Surely you must understand that. Well, maybe you don't. I hoped you would.

Mr. Warner: You do it daily.

Mr. Deans: I can't understand the minister.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You have got to understand that there may be people, who because of some type of permanent physical disability who are incapacitated to the degree they need special money for—

Mr. Deans: Fine, give them more. I said that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's precisely what we have done. They may have transportation problems. There may be special diets. It's okay to say they all eat the same and they all sleep the same and so on, but their needs may be different.

Mr. Deans: You are not doing that because they don't start from the same base.

Mr. R. S. Smith: That's a special consideration. It has nothing to do with this.

Mr. Deans: That's not the basis on which you make your calculation.

Mr. Acting Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It's for that reason we were able to distinguish the extraordinary needs and to see that this group got more money.

Mr. Deans: You don't understand it if you say that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: We've helped them do that. Now you are criticizing us for doing what we can on behalf of those people who are in need.

Mr. Deans: We are criticizing you because you are not doing it properly.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I will just make one final comment on this. When you brought in the GAINS programme and your parameters were made public, I said at the time that you were discriminating against those people who are unemployable not because of any physical handicap which would have made them disabled but generally because of their mental capabilities. That's exactly what you are doing in most cases. You're discriminating against people because of their educational background or their mental capabilities. There is no other way that you can look at this. If one looks at the cases individually, anybody could obviously come to that conclusion.

I won't carry on too long on that because I have a couple of other specific questions that I want to ask in regard to this vote.

They are questions that I asked in my opening remarks, to which I did not receive an answer.

First, in this \$361,299,000 for provincial allowances and benefits, as well as that amount which is aside for general welfare assistance, is there any moneys included for an increase during the coming month or two? As I explained earlier, they are now a complete year behind and inflation has taken away 10, 12 or 13 per cent of the purchasing power that they had a year ago; and they are dropping behind again.

The other question I wanted to ask you is: What is your position insofar as the legal ramifications of the General Welfare Assistance Act and the regulations under it which specify that as long as funds are provided by the municipality within the parameters of that Act that you have to reimburse them to the extent of 80 per cent? What are you going to do with the municipality that has costs that are well within the parameters of the Act and the regulations, but are above your 5.5 per cent basic increase that you have allowed—which I believe in the case of the General Welfare Assistance Act and the municipalities has been done illegally?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, in regard to provision in here for an increase in rates—no, there is not a provision. If there is an increase in the rates, then that would have to be a cabinet determination and presumably I would have to come in with supplementary estimates, as I did earlier in connection with last year's budget when the rate increase was given then. So simply, no, there is not money provided in this for a rate increase.

Insofar as the 5.5 per cent parameters in terms of general welfare assistance and your allegation that this is illegal, may I just say that I have full confidence that the municipalities will be able to function within those parameters.

I have indicated that if something most extraordinary happens to their caseload, something dramatic which is unanticipated, then I will deal with that problem at that time. It's a hypothetical question, I suppose. It need not be answered now. Our experience is that they will very well meet the overall spending parameters, so I don't think any change in the regulations will be necessary to vary the present situation.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I would just point out to you that for you to indicate that you will not pay more than 5.5 per cent is wrong,

because by law you would have to pay it. It is just a farce to try to give the impression across this province that you are going to curtail the increase in general welfare assistance by 5.5 per cent, when you don't have the legal right to do it.

It is the same way with closing hospitals and the same way with entering into, perhaps, the AIB negotiations in contracts with Ottawa.

You are ruling over there by divine right. You no longer have to refer to what's legal or what's not legal. You just go ahead regardless of the law. If the guy on the street tries that, what happens to him? The same thing should happen to you people.

I indicate to you that the public in this province are becoming well aware of the attitude that this government is taking toward what is now statute and what is now regulation.

I would like to ask a few other questions, but I don't think you answered fully my first question in regard to the increase. We are talking about these estimates, and we can't talk about what you may do or may not do under supplementary estimates. We have got to talk about what you have got here, and you haven't got money here to increase either family benefits or general welfare assistance.

[9:45]

What we're looking at is two years without any increase to those people who are at the lowest level of income in this province. If you can explain to me that it is the policy of your government not to increase allowances for two years for people who are at the lowest level of income, I would like you to get up and say that's what the policy of this government is.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: At the risk of repeating myself, there is no money in this budget for an increase in GWA or FBA.

Mrs. Campbell: And you don't care.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In terms of it being the policy of this government to freeze those limits for two years, I did not say that at all and I don't think that's implicit in these. If you will look at the experience of the rate changes over the years, you will see that they have been very conscientiously considered by cabinet from time to time and increased accordingly, not on a regular basis but as the need dictates.

It's very difficult to forecast sometimes. In one year there might be two increases. The next year there may not be any increase but

that is something which has to be left open. Hopefully, the constraint programme of this government will prove so effective that we will be able to contain the inflationary rate which will have a decided impact and effect on what this government does in terms of rate increases. That's something we cannot determine right now.

If we do determine to do it, if it becomes cabinet policy—again this is hypothetical—I'm saying that our past experience has been, and it's been my experience since being minister, that supplementary estimates are brought into this House for approval of that rate increase or that expenditure by the House.

Ms. Gigantes: Last thing on your mind.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's what has happened. In terms of an explanation of the 5½ per cent overall increase in total spending for GWA, that's being monitored in terms of legal authority to pay. It's on a fiscal year basis. It's not a question of a month-by-month basis. Surely, the member for Nipissing is not raising a question that the government or my ministry is breaking the law in any way because there's been no breach of the law or of the regulations.

Mr. R. S. Smith: There very well could be if you refuse to pay on that basis.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The municipalities are functioning as before. They're paying as before. They're within the law. I don't know why that should be raised.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Mr. Chairman, on that one point quickly, I would say to the minister that, being a member of the legal profession, he should certainly understand that if a municipality does go above 5½ per cent and does make application and you refuse to pay and their payments out have been within the parameters of your legislation and your regulations, you are either breaking the law or you are breaking the agreement which had been made over the years with the municipalities as to what you will pay and won't pay. Whether it's a moral agreement or a legal agreement doesn't really matter. You still have the obligation.

You're saying to me, when you say "I'm putting a 5½ per cent cap on that increase" that you're going to do that regardless of what happens. In my opinion at least, that is government policy saying to the people, "We're going to do what we like, regardless of what our commitments are and regardless of what the law and the regulation say."

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again, this is only June and our fiscal year started April 1. We've had two months or so. You're surely not saying that the municipalities have spent 105 per cent of what they spent last year and therefore are breaking the law or something?

Mrs. Campbell: No.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Not saying that at all.

Mrs. Campbell: It is next February he is talking about.

Mr. R. S. Smith: What are you going to do next February or March?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: What I'm saying is that you can't suggest, surely, that some law will be broken until the total spending of 105 per cent of last year is reached. You are not suggesting that there is a current breach of the law surely.

Mr. R. S. Smith: You are suggesting that they will break the law if they go over the 5½ per cent.

Our concern with the inadequacy of the maintenance allowance is prompted not only by the numerous complaints that Toronto councillors receive, but by the increasing inability of some clients to take full advantage of our programme due to severe, personal, financial limitations. Our maintenance allowances were last raised in January, 1974.

That's some commitment, isn't it? That's some commitment to facilitating employment and to creating employment opportunities for people, allowing a two-year lag in the maintenance allowance; allowing the maintenance allowance to fall behind the levels of support available through income maintenance programmes. It's so absurd.

I just want to put this on the record. A person with three dependants who goes on a VRS programme can expect to get \$369 a month. If that person was on family benefits he could get \$455 a month. If he was on GAINS he could get \$609 a month. If he was on GWA he could get \$490 a month. If he was on Canada Manpower training allowance, based on 4⅓ weeks, he could get \$433 a month.

It's utterly ludicrous to run a vocational rehabilitation services programme on the basis of financial disincentive. What kind of rationale is that? It puts the lie to all of the rubbish that you spout about wanting to help people on public assistance return to productive employment when you allow those kinds of situations.

I have a letter from the director of the rehabilitation branch to a Mr. Willhelm. Let me say categorically that I didn't obtain that letter from either of those two gentlemen. In fact, I don't know who I obtained the letter from. But it deals with the same concern about the total inadequacy of the VRS maintenance allowance and your failure to raise the rates. Mr. Creighton says:

A recommendation was taken to the senior management committee in the fall of 1975, but it is our understanding that a raise and restructuring of the VRS maintenance allowance is not appropriate at the present time.

That was in a letter of May 4. And on the same day, Mr. Creighton wrote to a client, I assume, a Mrs. Nigata, and I quote:

I recognize that the cost of living has increased, but unfortunately because of government spending restraints and other factors, I can offer you no encouragement regarding the increase of maintenance allowances at this time.

Again, in your enthusiasm to save a few bucks, you're undermining one of the best programmes that's ever been developed in this province. You're denying the opportunity of welfare recipients to go into a meaningful vocational rehabilitation programme. It is a programme that has a good track record, an established record of success in the field—and the only problem with it is that it's limited. It's limited by the short-sighted, penny-pinching, ridiculous attitudes that typify your stewardship of this ministry.

Let me ask you very simply: When do you intend to raise the VRS maintenance allowance so that you can restore the effectiveness of this programme, even to previous levels, let alone talking about the need to develop and expand it as I suggested in the leadoff?

[10:00]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: You are right and you are wrong. You are right in that we do have a very good staff and we do have an excellent vocational rehabilitation programme. I want to thank you, and I say that sincerely, for your commendation of that programme.

Mr. McClellan: It's no credit to you.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think maybe some of your other conclusions are wrong, though, because we are continually upgrading and expanding our rehab programme. As a matter of fact, we have made some recent moves which will expedite the whole area of

workshops and that type of thing. We are very interested in and concerned about assisting people to help themselves.

Mr. McClellan: Isn't that dandy.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's precisely what we are doing. I don't think that is measured in money alone or in terms of how much you pay or in terms of an allowance. You have pointed out some differences in what a person would get, depending on what programme he or she was in. I grant you that there are differences.

Mr. McClellan: There are more than differences. Let me say one very short thing. What is happening, and I have been told this by a number of rehabilitation workers across this city, is that clients are refusing to participate in the rehabilitation programme because of the disincentive that the maintenance allowance represents. It represents a substantial loss of income for a lot of people.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Far be it from me to suggest that the law be broken. I have never suggested that the law be broken; I am rather surprised that you could infer that.

Mrs. Campbell: Just collect from the federal government and not pass it through.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If we have seen that we should, for example, change regulations in order to carry out our programme we have given very careful consideration to that type of change to make sure that there was some authority for what we were doing. We have done that. We have been very meticulous in ensuring that we do comply with the law.

Sometimes there are changes in the law. We hope that any changes made are fair and just and in the interest of the people of Ontario and that is what we propose. But I am convinced that what you are raising is really a hypothetical question of some very excessive expenditures on general welfare assistance which I am convinced will not happen. If that happens then I will deal with that at that time very fairly to ensure, again, that no municipality is unnecessarily hurt.

Mrs. Campbell: Does anybody plan on that ad hoc basis?

Mr. R. S. Smith: My advice then to the municipalities would be to spend within those regulations and within the Act, and don't worry about the 5½ per cent criterion.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Just spend for the sake of spending. Well, that may be your advice.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Spend within the regulations.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: They are spending within the regulations.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Okay, that is what I said.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Any person they are supporting financially would have to be eligible within the regulations, so they are paying out in accordance with the regulations. What I am saying is that that is designed to keep them within the 5½ per cent, because implicit in the regulation changes was a decrease in caseload which would accommodate the containment of spending to an overall 5½ per cent.

Mr. McClellan: We have established that you have no intention of rationalizing your income maintenance programme—of reducing or eliminating the traditional hodge-podge of inequity.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That is your conclusion.

Mr. McClellan: We have established that you are content to let the needy and disadvantaged in this province fight your war on inflation through your refusal to raise rates—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That is your misreading.

Mr. Bain: That is the only reading anyone can take.

Mr. McClellan: —to take into account cost of living increases. The direction you are going is very clear and you are not fooling anybody by all your pious rhetoric about nobody in this province suffering. But you also have a lot of pious rhetoric about your interest in promoting employment opportunities and work opportunity, and we will also look at that part of your record while we are on this vote for a few minutes.

Your shredders are not working too well this year. I have another document, this might even be called intelligence, as opposed to information, from this most secretive of ministers. It is an internal memorandum from staff, dealing with the vocational rehabilitation service.

The vocational rehabilitation service of the ministry has always been, in my opinion—and I don't think I will qualify it—I think it has been the best programme that your ministry has developed. Jack Amos deserves a lot of credit. He built well when he built the vocational rehabilitation services branch.

But I am increasingly concerned about what is happening within vocational rehabilitation services. This document, which is dated March 23, 1976, a memorandum from staff to Mr. Thorne, does very little to allay those concerns, and does little to support your pious rhetoric about an interest in helping people return to productive employment.

The document deals with the inadequacy of vocational training allowances. Vocational training allowances are clearly so low at this point in time, because they haven't been raised in how many years? In two years? It's been over two years since your ministry has increased the VRS maintenance allowances. At this point, welfare benefits are higher in many instances than the maintenance allowances. For many clients of vocational rehab they're better off to stay on welfare than to go on to the vocational rehab programme—the benefit levels have fallen so low and so far behind. The staff write:

On top of the basic loss of income from transference to VRS from even general welfare assistance or family benefits or GAINS there are additional costs that a VRS trainee has to assume. These are the same kind of costs anybody else has who is participating in a job, really; the same kind of daily living costs an employed person has to incur are incurred by this person. They may not have had to incur them while they were on GAINS or FBA or GWA. What is happening and I am telling you that this is happening—is you are discouraging people from going into the programme. You are driving people out of the programme. That is what happens when you have these kinds of negative disincentives in work opportunities programmes. You will have to try to get that through your head and you ought to raise the allowance.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think maybe the member for Bellwoods should understand, too, that a person can be on FBA and still be involved in our vocational rehabilitation programme. He can participate in that and obtain transportation and that type of thing. It doesn't necessarily mean that because a person is on one of these programmes he is being treated any the worse.

Mr. McClellan: Maybe I do misunderstand it and if I do I would seek clarification. It is my understanding that a person on family benefits going into a vocational rehab programme transfers from family benefits to the vocational rehab allowance. Am I incorrect?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: He can remain on FBA.

Mr. McClellan: So there is no loss of income?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There may not be.

Mr. McClellan: Are there compensatory amounts to take into account the additional living expenses incurred by participation in a rehabilitation programme?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: For example, if you take a single person it may be to his advantage, if you look at the allowance for him on the VRS. He would get more that way.

Mr. Sweeney: Could you advise me whether there is any provision in this budget for people whose total income comes from a disability pension and who are living in a nursing home? I'm thinking of one case in particular where nursing home rates went up roughly \$3 a day for a semi-private room, which works out to about \$90 a month. That's pretty close to a 30 per cent increase. At the same time, this one particular person had an increase in his pension benefits somewhere in the neighbourhood of about 10 per cent. As near as I can find out, the differential between those two figures just about wipes out any living expense money that that person had.

Is there any provision in this budget to take into account those rather dramatic changes in the nursing home rates which is putting this person in a rather precarious position?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If it is the private disability pension you're talking about that may be eaten up or wiped out because of the nursing home rates, then we can pick up to the extent of the comfort allowance rate.

Mr. Sweeney: My understanding is that the only source of income for this person is a disability pension from your ministry. He has no other source of income.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Then he should still be left with the comfort allowance of \$43 a month.

Mr. Sweeney: My understanding is that that is not the case. If there is something else missing there—

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If you have a specific case, it is very difficult to argue in general terms but I would be happy to look into the particular case you have.

Mr. Sweeney: Do I understand you to say that the \$43 comfort allowance would be there, regardless of the change of rate of the nursing home, and that your ministry would pick up the increase? Is that what I hear you saying?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That's right.

Mr. Sweeney: Maybe part of the problem is the fact that this person is in a semi-private room, but because of his disability, he can't be in a ward. Could that make any difference? I understand that makes a difference. Maybe I didn't clarify that.

Mr. R. S. Smith: It makes a difference of \$100 a month in costs to him.

Mr. Sweeney: The disability is of such a nature that the person has to be in it. I think this is what is causing the problem and it has been brought to the attention of somebody in your ministry and they were told there was nothing they could do about it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I understand what you are saying. The argument is, and I've heard it, if it's a nursing home that doesn't have standard care and it's a semi-private room, therefore there is the additional charge it gets from the family. There are those situations. We found generally where we're supporting them that they do in one way or another manage the standard rate. However, if you're talking about the ministry financing a semi-private room, there isn't any provision to finance a semi-private rate.

Mrs. Campbell: I am sorry I'm now somewhat out of contact because I wanted to join in the debate at the time that we were discussing the matter of GAINS and disability allowances. One of the things I do find difficult about this government is that we have exercised hitherto absolutely no control over private labs. We presumably have assumed that they will function in an honourable fashion. If we had the same kind of control over them that we're exercising over people in deep need of assistance, I could perhaps better understand the procedures in this ministry.

Both the present minister and his predecessor have maintained that they carry on this useless and inhuman kind of distinction between the person who is disabled and the person who is unemployable by reason of a disability because of that dreadful, treacherous group in Ottawa.

I want to make this statement; and I want to make it abundantly clear; and I want to make it for the record; and I want to make it so that everyone may understand it. That is not so.

The government at Ottawa and the hon. Minister of Health and Welfare have consistently stated that if Ontario finds a person to be disabled, then that government will cost-share. He cannot understand, nor does the government, what all the fuss and feathers are about here.

Let me just once more give you some examples. One of the cases that I found was precluded from the GAINS programme. I've given the example before, but I want to stress it again. It was the gentleman in my riding who had one leg and part of a foot amputated. He was in a wheelchair and you people were hounding him for an alleged overpayment under a disability allowance.

In addition, he wasn't entirely and completely blind, but he was very close to it. I don't know what your doctors were doing with that case. I don't understand their operation. But I do know that when I found out that he was in this position and worried sick, because you were claiming an overpayment, suddenly we found that indeed, this man was disabled. I don't know who in the world could have denied it. We got it straightened out.

I don't understand why we have a panel of doctors, paid as they are, to review cases—and they never see the patient. Oh, I understand they read the doctor's prognosis. But they sit in their ivory tower and determine whether that doctor initially is right or wrong. But the funny and ludicrous thing is that your review board, made up of lay people, can overrule those doctors.

The minister earlier tonight talked to us about the fact that these people are not statistics, they are people. I would like him to answer that kind of a situation. How is it that we have such tight controls to deny people their rights? How is it that a government can go on playing the game of blaming somebody else? They do that rather than standing up and acknowledging that if they can refuse the GAINS programme it is money in the pocket of the government, and presumably money in the pockets of the taxpayers of this province. Only, of course, it isn't. It will go out in some other direction.

There is nothing in this ministry until we get to the next vote that so disturbs me and so fills me with contempt as the way in which this government plays games with people such as I have described. I want the minister now

to acknowledge, if he will, that undoubtedly the federal government will participate in cost-sharing for any of those cases where this province determines that there is, in fact, a disability.

[10:15]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: May I just say this? Surely the member for St. George isn't indicating that I referred to the people in Ottawa as a "dreadful, treacherous group," because I haven't, and we've got—

Mrs. Campbell: Not in words, just in attitude.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I feel our ministry gets along very well, as a matter of fact, with our counterparts in Ottawa. We've participated very well in the Canada Assistance Plan to date. We've made very full use of that plan in regard to—

Mrs. Campbell: Very limited use.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —in regard to the definition of "disabled." I know that's an old chestnut. I said that earlier tonight and the hon. member may not have been here at the time.

Mrs. Campbell: I was listening.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There are difficulties. Sure, if Ontario defines the disabled and a person comes within that definition we cost-share, but I think the member must remember that the definition has to be acceptable to Ottawa. We've attempted to do that to improve the lot of whoever we can—in other words, to try to elevate the financial position of persons who are permanently disabled because, again, and I'm being repetitive, I feel that often there are extraordinary needs that that person must have and I think if there are some additional moneys, so much the better.

In connection with our medical advisory board, I'm not suggesting they're perfect. They do try, as I understand again—

Mrs. Campbell: At a \$25,000 a year rake-off for a part-time job they ought to be excellent.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Nobody's perfect. We must remember that they do a lot of work in a year. I think they probably certify over 3,000 cases a year in terms of disability.

There is a full opportunity for presentation of any additional medical evidence and so on. The fact that the case you mentioned was righted, I think is significant. I've got

a lot of confidence in my staff. I think they are sensitive—

Mrs. Campbell: It wasn't righted by them; it was righted by me.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think they are sensitive of people; if someone does get misjudged in some way they try to right it. In the case you mentioned, it was rectified and I'm happy that that was done.

We're doing the best we can. There certainly will be inequities. There'll be individual cases that will need more individual attention or reassessment and we're happy to review those.

Mr. B. Newman: I wanted to ask the minister if he is taking into consideration the new rent increases that have been imposed on individuals on any type of government assistance programme, especially under the GWA. Mr. Minister, you're aware that it isn't possible for a lot of people to get the accommodations for the price you allow them under your programme. The only way they can get by is to deprive themselves of something and it generally happens to be food. Seeing an individual just last Saturday in my constituency office, 18 years of age, 105 lb in weight, certainly indicates that the young lad has been disadvantaged for a long period of time to be that light, the family having been on general welfare assistance for some period of time. What are you doing concerning rent increases?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: In terms of rent increases—or that element of the payment I think you are talking about, may I say that, in general terms, the emphasis is really on trying to increase or better the lot of the broader spectrum instead of just zeroing in on those persons who may be suffering the largest rent increases.

What I am saying, of course, is that we have to be careful that we don't concentrate on one narrow aspect. As soon as we increase the allowance for rent, of course, there are landlords who may feel that is something which should be passed on to them because we have provided for that.

Hopefully, the rent review board we have will have some impact in terms of escalating rents. At present we do not have a plan in terms of overall increases, I want to be frank about that. If anything is done, I think it would be done in as broad a context as possible to benefit the most people with that increase.

Mr. B. Newman: If I may ask the minister: What recourse has a landlord who does not receive the rental he's entitled to from an individual who is in one of the government assistance programmes, be it GWA or another programme? I have had this brought to my attention by at least five landlords within a very short period of time.

Apparently the money is received by the individual but it is not passed on to the landlord. In all cases the rental was not exorbitant at all but it was spent for other purposes. In the meantime the landlord is out and has difficulty even in getting the tenant to vacate. If the tenant does vacate he doesn't pay any rental for another one or two months and in the meantime the landlord has taken quite a financial beating. I am not referring to large landlords who have multiple apartments but one who may be renting the upstairs of his home or may have one income property only, but is being disadvantaged in this fashion.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Now you are getting to that problem and I may say I have that type of problem referred from members on all sides of the House. You are not talking about the large corporate landlord; you are talking about the ordinary citizen who may have accommodation he is renting to someone and he depends upon the rent. I may say again, in rent terms generally—and you did mention rent increases—a municipality has the right to give supplementary assistance for rent.

Mr. Deans: But they can't afford it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: If you are dealing at the municipal level, the municipality has a right to pay, under GWA, directly to the landlord. Under FBA we don't have that right. I suppose in exceptional cases we could pay to a trustee if circumstances dictated that the person couldn't really manage that money. But we don't have any mechanism, under FBA, to pay directly to the landlord.

Mr. B. Newman: The minister did receive from me the names of at least three individuals who did not pay their rentals. He has replied and I wish there was some way by which we could see that the small landlord especially is not out of pocket on a thing like this. If a person went into any one of the chain stores and stole a pound of meat or anything from the store, he probably could get 30 days or some type of monetary penalty.

When this individual does not pay his rent to that small landlord, he is really stealing, after a fashion, from that person and he might be adversely affecting the livelihood of that small landlord. Yet there seems to be nothing we can do to help that small landlord. I wish there was some way your officials could figure out so that the small landlord is not out of pocket when he finds a tenant of his has disappeared in the middle of the night, owing one, two or even three months' back rent. For the little landlord that small amount of rent or the larger amount is a real hardship on him. Is there no answer so that this would happen with less frequency?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The only answer is the answer that I've given, that we haven't any mechanism now, and I don't know of one, frankly, whereby we could pay directly to the landlords. I don't accept your parallel between something that may be a criminal offence and someone who doesn't pay the rent. I know that non-payment of rent is serious as well, I know it's often awkward and difficult and sometimes tortuous to have to sue a tenant for rent. But there is a process of recovery. I'm repeating myself but we don't have the right under our regulations to pay a landlord directly. Under GWA they can pay the rent directly to the landlord.

Mr. B. Newman: There is no relationship between the two—the individual who may take something from a supermarket or some other store. However, both people are out of pocket eventually but the small landlord is really being punished to a great extent.

Is the ministry thinking in the case of individuals who are under GWA of using the same principle with them as is used with the guaranteed income supplement? For each \$2 you have of income your guaranteed income supplement is reduced by \$1 so that an individual on a welfare programme would be encouraged to work. Each \$2 he may earn would reduce his welfare assistance by \$1. I don't know if you can encourage them to work in all instances because in some municipalities there is no work. Where does one find work?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Frankly, I think that the FBA recipient is really in a better position than that because he is entitled to keep the first \$400 of earnings and 25 per cent of the remainder, so there is that provision there.

Mr. B. Newman: How about the GWA?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again, GWA is permissible at the municipal level. It's up to the municipality.

Mr. Acting Chairman: Order, please. I gather that there will be other speakers on this item. Considering the hour, perhaps—

Mr. Deans: Is it possible to complete it by 10:30?

Mr. R. S. Smith: I think there are about three or four more votes.

Mr. Deans: Out of curiosity, could you ask if it is possible?

Mr. Acting Chairman: Are there other speakers who wish to discuss item 2, income maintenance?

Mr. R. S. Smith: Maybe we could finish if the questions were short and the answers were short.

Mr. Acting Chairman: I have already two people on my list so I think perhaps we would be better to stop. Is it the consensus of the House that we finish this vote before we rise and report?

Mr. Deans: I'm prepared to do that, provided it's done within the next five minutes. I'd like to finish the vote before we rise. If we can agree to rise in five minutes, I'd be delighted to do so.

Mr. Acting Chairman: Do all sides of the House agree to that?

Mr. Breithaupt: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we can agree to that without any difficulty as long as section 2 of the vote then carries.

Mr. Acting Chairman: All right then we will ask the member for Bellwoods to proceed.

Mr. McClellan: I just wanted to raise again very quickly the question of the benefit rate for GAINS disabled recipients. I want to tie it specifically to a group of disabled GAINS recipients in Bellwoods Park House whose plight I brought to the attention of the minister last March. I remind you again that they have a comfort allowance of \$43 a month.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Have you specific people in mind you wish us to check?

Mr. McClellan: I am talking about 50 people in the residence who, I understand, have had the same amount, a comfort allowance of \$43 a month and a transportation allow-

ance of either \$15 or \$30 a month. It is totally inadequate, and you must understand that. You gave a commitment to examine this need. If that isn't an example of disadvantaged and helpless people who have a profound need for assistance from your ministry, I don't know what the hell is. And you continue to send back a non-sensical reply like that: "We will examine the need." My God, can't you unbend sufficiently to raise the GAINS rates, and to provide adequate comfort allowances for the disabled in institutions, and provide a decent transportation allowance for people?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again you are talking about Bellwoods House. You are talking about a charitable institution under the Charitable Institutions Act. And presumably that is the approach.

Mr. McClellan: You don't have to bring it up again.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I just have two quick things, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask in regard to the rehabilitation programme that we are not going to touch upon very much, when we can expect an increase in complement in the rehabilitation services across the province. I referred two brothers for rehabilitation services; one of them has been seen and the other one can't be seen for three or four weeks. In northern Ontario I believe the complement is far below that which is able to service the community.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again, since the last estimates we have increased the number over the province by 50 and I think we have addressed the problem that you raised last year.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Yes, but not in my specific area.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: There have been 14 additional people taken on in the north.

Mr. R. S. Smith: I don't know what they are doing?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Well I hope they are looking after you.

Mr. R. S. Smith: The other point I want to make is in areas for consideration in establishing guidelines. This is one of your documents put out to your people early in the game of restraint. And I just want to quote this under special assistance and supplementary aid: "Dental assistance: Issue dental cards only upon request by recipients."

I think that is ridiculous and just an affront to anybody with any intelligence. In other words, if these people don't have the ability to know that they are entitled to a dental card they don't get it, and that is just ridiculous.

Mr. B. Newman: That's right.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Again we thought that was sensible, rather than to issue these cards automatically whether they are needed or not and have them floating around. They could very well have a cash value, you know.

Mr. R. S. Smith: How about the people who don't know they are entitled to it?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Oh, I am sure that—

Mr. R. S. Smith: There are lots of people who don't know.

Mr. B. Newman: Lots who don't know.

Mr. R. S. Smith: They should have the card automatically if they are entitled to it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I am surprised at that, because I am doing everything I can to ensure that people are well informed. That is a part of our information system.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Why don't you just give them the card? That will inform them that they are entitled to it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: It is easy to wave your arms and say give everybody a card, whether they need it or not and whether they can hand it to somebody else to use.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Do you know of anybody who goes to the dentist who doesn't have to?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think it is a matter of exercising some controls; I think they are sensible controls. We are spending a lot of money in social services as you know. It is a question of how open you want to be. And I think we would be criticized—and probably by you—

Mr. R. S. Smith: Not by me.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: —if we were too loose, if the arrangements were too open on things such as this.

Mr. Acting Chairman: Shall item 2 of vote 2702 carry? Carried.

Will there be discussion on item 3?

No? We can adjourn and resume discussion of item 3 later.

Hon. Mr. Taylor moved the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed, Mr. Deputy Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Acting Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of supply begs to report it has come to certain resolutions and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, before adjourning the House I would indicate for the House leader that on Monday and Tuesday of next week we will consider legislation.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Am I to understand that these estimates will not be called on either Monday or Tuesday?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: That is correct.

Mr. R. S. Smith: When will these estimates be called again?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: I think we'll have to consult with the House leader. My instructions were that those were the arrangements made. It was my understanding that the estimates would resume on Thursday and Friday, the 17th and 18th or the following Monday. I don't know; I'm not telling you. I'm just saying it's something the House leaders will have to work out.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, if I can be helpful. The intention at the moment is to proceed with legislation on Monday and to stay on legislation until we have completed all of the legislation currently before the House which has to be passed before adjournment. Then we will return to estimates and stay with estimates until the clock runs out.

That would mean we would likely be on legislation on Monday, Tuesday and part of Wednesday, if not all of Wednesday, with the government's confidence motion coming some time on Thursday afternoon, presumably. From that point on, we'll go to estimates until we're completed. It's very likely we'll be sitting Monday and Tuesday.

Hon. Mr. Taylor moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Monday, June 14, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, JUNE 14, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL MEETING ON RAIL POLICY

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, as members of this House may or may not be aware, I am scheduled to meet with the federal Minister of Transport, Canada, the Hon. Otto Lang, on June 29. Among the several items on our agenda will be my ministry's concerns in the area of rail transportation in this province.

Specifically, I am determined to obtain a clear understanding of the federal government's position vis-à-vis the future of the Windsor to Toronto corridor.

At the same time, I shall advise the minister of the importance Ontario places on rail passenger service as well as the position my officials will be taking at the Canadian Transport Commission's hearings in Ottawa commencing at the end of this month. The latter, of course, focuses on the rationalization of the CN-CP transcontinental rail passenger services.

I also intend to make Mr. Lang fully aware of the concerns which I'm sure all of the members of this House share regarding rail service to Ontario's north and northeast where, of course, we are directly involved through the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission.

I don't believe I have to elaborate on the question of Ontario's stance in the matter of the Windsor-to-Toronto corridor.

Last May 20 in this House, I responded to Mr. Lang's telegram in which he outlined that the first phase of plans to improve the Quebec City to Windsor rail corridor would, initially at least, include only the Quebec City to Montreal segment. At that time I pointed out that the federal government's decision to leave the Toronto to Windsor corridor until—and I quote from Mr. Lang's telegram—"the near future" ignored the basic fact that the Toronto-Windsor segment serves

the most densely populated area in Canada. It was, I reminded him, also the area with the highest economic potential.

I concluded by saying that I was most disappointed and that I would ask for a minister-to-minister meeting at the earliest possible moment. That meeting, Mr. Speaker, as I noted earlier, is scheduled for June 29.

In the matter of the CTC's economic rationalization hearing on the CN and CP transcontinental passenger rail services, I shall inform Mr. Lang that Ontario supports in theory, the principle of such rationalization. This is on the assumption, however, that rationalization does not involve the transfer of financial responsibility for replacement services to the Province of Ontario. Nor will our support imply acceptance should there be a discontinuance of portions of the transcontinental which currently provide an essential service to our northern communities.

I shall insist that, should the CTC rule in favour of discontinuance in such areas, these services must be replaced by local rail or acceptable alternative services, tailored to fit the affected communities' needs.

Decisions arising from the transcontinental rationalization hearings could possibly have an effect on the operations of the ONR as well. I shall again make the Minister of Transport, Canada, aware of such possibilities. For example, should there be a reconfiguration of the transcontinental rail route through Ontario, it could include the Toronto to North Bay link which ONR operates with CN on a pooled equipment basis. Thus, should this kind of reconfiguration result, I would insist that ONR and CN equipment be compatible.

I shall therefore ask Mr. Lang to make me fully aware of the federal position in this area as soon as possible. I shall stress the fact that the Ontario government reaffirms its previously stated position to improve rail passenger service into the north and northeast areas of the province.

Such services can only be considered in their totality—from Toronto to Cochrane and beyond; the branch lines to Moosonee, Noranda and Timmins. Yet, and I shall point this out—

Mr. Sargent: You're always forgetting the Grey-Bruce area.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Snow: —emphatically to Mr. Lang, the Toronto to North Bay corridor, as well as other corridors, is the responsibility of the CN and its attendant federal funding. Thus, regardless of our resolution, any action taken to upgrade the ONR's services must be co-ordinated with the federal government and the CNR.

Addressing this problem has not been easy. Therefore, I shall ask the Minister of Transport, Canada, to state his position clearly on the points I have raised in previous correspondence with him.

First will be the matter of mandatory discontinuance hearings. In this area it would be rather foolish of the province to make large capital investments for new equipment while the federal discontinuance hearing exists. Hence, I shall ask for either a five-year deferral of the passenger service discontinuance hearing on CN corridors to enable us to move ahead or the holding of the necessary hearings immediately.

Second, I will ask for assurances that federal funding be continued on the Toronto-North Bay passenger run.

Third, I shall request that the CTC approve federal subsidies for ONR passenger service deficits on the same basis as those provided the CN portions.

On this subject, Mr. Speaker, while the ONR does not operate under a federal charter there is plenty of room for considering a request for subsidies. The ONR does serve many remote northern Ontario communities and, if I may quote Mr. Lang himself in a directive dated Jan. 29, 1976, "Rail passenger service should not be abandoned in any case where no other commercial service exists."

That, I shall argue, offers justification for federal funding for the ONR.

As for our commitments to provide the north and northeast with upgraded and improved services. I shall make it abundantly clear that the uncertainties concerning funding, discontinuance hearings, transcontinental rationalization and equipment needs are seriously impairing this government's ability to reach any real and meaningful decisions in rail transportation to the north and north-eastern areas of this province.

Therefore, the time has come for action—if we are to respond to the genuine desires and needs of people resident in the north and northeast. To this end, it is the firm intention of the government of Ontario to adopt a

new equipment schedule which will allow us to order three late model trains any time before the end of this year.

To accomplish this we shall continue negotiations with Amtrak, requesting that our options to acquire three turbos be extended until the end of 1976. At the same time, we shall follow with more than considerable interest, the kind of new equipment scheduled for delivery for the Quebec City-Montreal project I referred to earlier. Tenders for this new equipment will, I'm told, be opened sometime in December this year.

At the same time, I have instructed the general manager of the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission, Mr. F. S. Clifford, to begin immediately, short-term improvements to our existing services—such as improving the quality of service by any means necessary and possible; by reassessing schedules and operational requirements; and upgrading equipment. Mr. Clifford will also meet with CNR officials to discuss actively the rationalization of the operational requirements to meet this objective.

WELFARE RECIPIENTS

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, on June 10 I tabled for the information of the House, details of the general welfare assistance caseload. During the dinner recess, my staff discovered arithmetic errors in that portion of my statement dealing with the caseloads of Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Lewis: It was pointed out to you?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Unfortunately, the wrong column of figures was read from the Metropolitan Toronto statistical fact sheet. The correct figures show a more marked decrease in employables.

Mr. Yakabuski: They don't like that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Although the total caseload is up slightly from last year at the same time, it is down by 464 cases or about 7.5 per cent from the previous month of April, 1976.

Although I took the first opportunity to correct the figures during the evening session of the committee of supply, I would like the House to be aware of the correct figures:

With regard to the Metropolitan Toronto general welfare caseload, it was one per cent higher in May, 1976, than it was in May, 1975; that is, 19,531 in May, 1976, compared with 19,365 in May, 1975. However, I would like to point out to the House that the Metro Toronto caseload has been declining over the

past five months after peaking in January. In January, the figure was 22,414. By May, it had declined by 12.9 per cent to 19,531.

While the total Metro Toronto caseload was one per cent higher in May this year than in May a year ago, the caseload of employables was lower; that is from 6,196 in May, 1975, compared with 5,740 in May, 1976, or approximately a seven per cent drop.

The misreading of the figures in my earlier statement applied only to the Metropolitan Toronto caseload. All other figures remain the same. I should point out that the figures I provided on June 10 were certainly not intended to mislead the members of the House as the correct figures I have provided today make the case even more emphatically.

[2:15]

Mr. Singer: If that ever came from the Liberal Party we would hear about it for the next six months. Imagine a mistake like that.

Mr. Yakabuski: Oh, you don't like that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The decline in the employables category in Metropolitan Toronto is even more startling.

Mr. Singer: Great research!

Hon. Mr. Taylor: Since January of this year there has been a 30.1 per cent decline from 8,211 cases to 5,740. This significant decline in employables caseloads is evidence of the value of my ministry's efforts to assist and encourage job-ready individuals to re-enter the labour force.

Mr. Singer: Is that within the right column or the wrong column?

FOREST FIRES

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I am delighted to be able to report to the House at this time that the forest fire situation has abated substantially in northern Ontario over the weekend. All of the major fires that had been causing difficulties, and at times some anxiety, are now in check and no serious threat faces any community in northern Ontario. The three large fires in the Ignace district, one of which was more than 50,000 acres, are reported under control today.

There is some further activity in the northern region and the eastern portion of the northeastern region where about 40 new fires broke out over the weekend. The long, hot, dry weather situation which prevailed through much of the north for more than five weeks

has moderated and some rain has fallen, bringing lower temperatures and higher humidities.

I would like to take this opportunity to express publicly the appreciation of the government of Ontario to the government of Alberta for the 254 fully-equipped firefighters they made available to us last week. Some of those men will be returning home today and all will have left by Friday. Alberta also kindly released two Canso water bombers which were most helpful to us during the peak of the fires in the northwest. They returned to Alberta last week. Our thanks also go to the United States Forestry Service for providing us with 70,000 lb of equipment and food as well as the use of an airborne infrared scanner which has been most useful to our men in detecting fires.

The ban on open fires in northwestern, north central and northern regions expires tomorrow at midnight. I am optimistic that we will not find it necessary to extend the ban. A decision, however, will depend on the weather and any new serious outbreaks which may have occurred. Members may be interested to know that our conservation officers have diligently been enforcing the Forest Fires Prevention Act and have laid some 48 charges of setting open fires in the restricted regions.

I would like to commend the woods operators in the forest fire areas for their excellent co-operation in eliminating or reducing unnecessary travel in the woods last week. Their response was tremendous as was that of the tourist operators and the tourists themselves. We expect operations to return to normal very soon.

Since the fire season began on April 1, we have had almost 1,200 fires which have burned through nearly 600,000 acres of northern Ontario's forest land.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

LEAD CONTAMINATION

Mr. Lewis: May I ask a question first of the Minister of the Environment? How does the Minister of the Environment respond to the condemnation by the Toronto Board of Health and medical experts of the report of the Environmental Hearing Board on the lead problems in the area of the lead smelters in downtown Toronto and their clear endorsement of the task force report in its place? Is the minister ever going to take any specific initiative to implement recommendations of that task force report?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The newspaper report dealing with the board of health meeting seems to indicate that one or two members of the board of health are taking issue with some of the levels that were recommended in the final report of the hearing board in that there was some difference from the finding of the earlier task force report.

This is something that I would leave to the experts as to whether or not the levels should be 30 micrograms per 100 millilitres or 40 or 50. I understand the hearing board reduced the acceptable level in blood from 40 to 30 and, as I say, certain of these people who are reported in the newspaper article feel that even 30 is too high.

We received a letter from, I think it was Anne Johnson, an alderman in the city, requesting a meeting with the Ministers of Health, Environment and Labour. Premier Davis, in replying to that, indicated we couldn't assure that such a meeting would take place before the House rises, or before the meeting that was held over the weekend. But there is no reason such a meeting couldn't take place between the members of our policy field and the members of the board of health.

I would frankly like to see members of the hearing board—

Mr. Sargent: Tell us about Dow Chemical.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —meet with the people who were on the data analysis task force. As you will recall, Mr. Speaker, I tabled those two reports at the same time, and therefore the hearing board report didn't refer to the information in the task force report. I think that those two groups should get together now and decide whether there should be any addendum to the hearing board report, dealing with blood levels particularly.

To answer the second part of the hon. member's question, we have now received information on what it would cost to remove the soil from about 125 homes around at least three of those lead plants; and we have some idea of how we should go about it. Apparently the recommendation is that the soil should be removed rather than just covered over. We have an idea of what it is going to cost. I have written to the mayor of Toronto and also to the president of the three or four plants involved asking for a meeting to decide how this is going to be undertaken and how it is going to be paid for.

Mr. Lewis: A quick supplementary, if I may, in two parts. Does it not strike the

minister as strange that the Environmental Hearing Board, having had the task force report in its hands for several months, did not see the need to incorporate its scientific findings in their report? Does it not seem to the minister that this substantiates much of the criticism of the Environmental Hearing Board? How much will it cost to replace the soil, and why has the minister not made a specific suggestion as to the timing and the financing?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, first of all my information is that the hearing board didn't have the information from the data analysis task force before their report went to print. My information is they didn't have that information until it was too late to include it in their report.

Mr. Mancini: I will take a copy.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I can check that further. Secondly, the cost is about \$300,000, and really I can't make any commitments for that amount until I find out how much of that sum, if any, we have to pay and I have talked to my colleague on my left here and his colleagues.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary: What is the minister saying—that for the sake of \$300,000 given to help—particularly the children in the area—he is now going to engage in a lengthy squabble? Has he suggested any method of apportioning the cost? Surely we should assume some of it, since we allowed the smelters to pollute?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: To go further on that, Mr. Speaker, you might say the city of Toronto allowed the smelters to be established in that area and a lot of homes to be built near it. So, there is certainly some shared responsibility here. As far as I'm concerned, the question or the debate or the discussion regarding cost will not delay the implementation of the removal of that soil.

OPP AT WHITE DOG INDIAN RESERVE

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Solicitor General, if I may. Can he report to the House the progress on the urgent request from the band council of the Whitedog Indian reserve, for Ontario Provincial Police policing on the reserve, about which I believe there was a meeting last week?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: No, Mr. Speaker, I have no further information at this time, except I believe that meeting was held and I

will try to have some information by tomorrow.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary: Can the minister in the process find out from the OPP why a confusion developed about how the police would get on the reserve—why the OPP believe they should be based at Minaki, and the band felt that, as in the case of other reserves, they would be on the reserve? Can the minister take into account the band's brief, which I'll send across to him, that says there are lives at stake in the decision, that the chiefs and council will have to resign shortly for personal safety as a result of threats of physical violence and that the situation is deteriorating? Can the minister do that?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: To whom was that brief addressed, may I ask?

Mr. Lewis: It was addressed to R. J. MacGarva, Staff Superintendent, Indian Policing Services, OPP.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I will take all that into consideration, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary: Is the Solicitor General aware that a young man brandishing a rifle entered the band office during daylight hours and threatened to kill the chief and councillors and that the OPP arrived 1½ hours after the incident? This is one of the reasons given for having OPP members on the reserve itself.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, that will be included in my report.

OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT ON PICKERING

Mr. Lewis: A question, if I may, to the Minister of Housing: Can he give us his understanding of exactly the status of the Ombudsman's report on Pickering? Has he received it? Is he about to make comment on it? Is it true that all the properties or many of the properties will have to fall under the Expropriations Act retroactively? What is the status?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, my knowledge of the status of that is, according to the press release put out by the Ombudsman today, that he will be presenting the report to me one week from today.

Mr. Lewis: So the minister has no knowledge of the contents of the report at all?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I have had a number of discussions with the Ombudsman as provided for in the legislation and in his Act. I don't feel I should discuss those conversations; they were in private. I have not received his final report and recommendations and I understand I'll get them a week from today.

CCH CANADIAN LTD.

Mr. Lewis: A question to the Minister of Labour: What is the status of the CCH dispute?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the CCH dispute has become almost as complicated as an Erle Stanley Gardner novel, as a matter of fact. There are so many plots and sub-plots at the moment. There are court cases, hearings before the Labour Relations Board and counter-hearings before the Labour Relations Board.

At the moment I have appointed a disputes advisory committee. We have two excellent gentlemen making up that committee—Mr. Terry Meagher and Mr. Lloyd Hemsworth—and they begin moving today to try to find a solution to this problem.

Mr. Lewis: Am I right that the memorandum of agreement was dated for June 15 and runs out, therefore, tomorrow unless CCH is somehow persuaded to come to its senses, whether in fictional form or not? Does the minister think that will happen within 24 hours?

Hon. B. Stephenson: They have a little longer than 24 hours. They actually have 36 hours at this point to try to resolve the difficulty.

Mr. Lewis: I am pleased to hear that.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It is quite possible that the memorandum will run out but with the presence of a disputes advisory committee I think that perhaps both parties are a little more directed toward maintaining a reasonable attitude until we get a report from the disputes advisory committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES' NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. S. Smith: A question for the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker: Why does the government permit the continuance of the kind of coercion which is going on in the dispute with the public health nurses? I have in mind

particularly a letter from the Halton regional board to the bargaining committee for the Ontario Nurses' Association in which Mr. Camm, director of personnel, says: "I am instructed by the board to advise you that those members who stop working on June 14, 1976 [as the minister knows, there is a one-week protest strike being proposed] will not have work available to them until a new collective agreement is reached."

Does the minister not agree that this is in contravention of sections 58(a), 58(c) and 61 of the Ontario Labour Relations Act inasmuch as selective lockouts are being proposed depending on whether the nurses go on strike at this particular time?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I have not seen a copy of that letter. When I do see it, I shall most certainly talk to the members of staff because there is, I think, a very strong possibility that it may be in contravention of the Act.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary: May I ask the minister what she intends to do about the deplorable state to which affairs have come, in which the nurses are quite willing to go to compulsory binding arbitration yet the health units across the province, with the tacit agreements of the government, are bringing to bear such very strong measures against them and refusing to budge in this regard?

[2:30]

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, there has been no tacit agreement on the part of the government. As a matter of fact, the government has been attempting to persuade the health units to move to voluntary arbitration because this would most certainly provide a solution to the problem. There isn't any doubt in my mind that eventually we will find a resolution to this problem, but it has been extremely difficult because of the peculiar situation in which the public health nurses find themselves vis-à-vis other nurses and vis-à-vis other employees of the health units. It is not a straightforward and simple problem to solve, and we are still doing our best to try to solve it. We will be meeting again with the Ontario Nurses' Association executive this week and attempting again to talk to the Association of Boards of Health.

Mr. Deans: A supplementary question: Exactly what does the minister mean by "attempting to talk with the Association of Boards of Health"? Is she going to talk to them or is she not going to talk to them? She can't be attempting to talk to them. She's the

Minister of Health; if she wants to talk to them, they have to talk to her.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been asked.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Correction, Mr. Speaker, I am not the Minister of Health.

Mr. Deans: The Minister of Labour; I beg your pardon.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It was just as difficult when I was acting Minister of Health to try to persuade the boards of health. We will be attempting to persuade them when we talk to them that there has to be a solution found to this problem, short of the kind of legislation which we think probably should be introduced but which we think probably should not be introduced under the present emergency situation.

If the boards of health had done what the Ministry of Health suggested last year, most of them would not be in the difficulties that they are in right at the moment in terms of matching or establishing a reasonable parity with hospital nurses; but the boards of health did not take it upon themselves to open their agreements, as suggested by the Ministry of Health last year, and as a result they are in a very difficult position, given this year's restraint programme.

LLBO AND LCBO EMPLOYEES' WAGE NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. S. Smith: Another question to the Minister of Labour on a different topic: Could the minister explain why the government appears to be pushing the LCBO and LLBO workers to an illegal strike by refusing to deal with them? Could the minister explain why the government is refusing to give these workers the 10 per cent award for the second year of their contract which was agreed to by the AIB? Why is this form of coercion being used against these workers?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, this problem is not within my ministry and I think it would be much more appropriately directed to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Mr. Nixon: We can't see him very well.

Hon. B. Stephenson: He is there.

Mr. S. Smith: The Minister from Lambton without Portfolio (Mr. Henderson) blocked my view of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Mr. Breithaupt: And of three others.

Mr. S. Smith: Would the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations kindly accept that question as redirected to him?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I heard the word "coercion" being used in connection with the government and its workers, and, of course, I don't accept that at all. There is no coercion being used whatsoever. Perhaps if the hon. member would expand on his question, I would understand what he is talking about.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member should repeat his question.

Mr. Nixon: The minister doesn't even know what you are talking about.

Mr. S. Smith: Would the minister not agree that the refusal on the part of the government to give these workers the 10 per cent wage increase that has already been agreed to by the AIB, and the government's insistence that the workers give up their right to appeal before they get any of this money, would be a form of coercion in his mind?

Mr. Nixon: Certainly.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: First of all, 10 per cent of what, if I may put a rhetorical question? It is 10 per cent of the amount that was agreed upon for last year, and until that amount is agreed upon there is no way of implementing the second phase of the wage increase. If we can reach agreement on the first year, then we know what the 10.1 per cent applies to; until then we don't.

Mr. Mancini: A supplementary: Isn't it a fact that the LCBO and LLBO employees did not take all the increase that they were awarded last year, and if their 10 per cent is cut down if and when the AIB rules on their appeal, there is already enough money in the fund so the government doesn't have to take the money back from the employees? Isn't that true?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been asked. There's no need to debate.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: No, it is not true. First of all, there has been no appeal to the AIB. I was in touch with the officials of the association as recently as last Friday to ask them if they had in fact appealed to the AIB, and they have not. They have filed action in the Supreme Court of Ontario and obviously while that action is pending, there is no way we can discuss the matter.

Mr. Nixon: Your record in the courts is not very good.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We are quite prepared to deal with it when they file an appeal with the AIB, but in reply to the hon. member's, "Is it true?" no, it is not.

Mr. Mancini: That's why I said "if and when."

FOREST FIRES

Mr. S. Smith: A question for the Minister of Natural Resources with regard to some of the events around the forest fires: Could the minister give some explanation to the House as to the actions of a helicopter pilot who is alleged to have refused requests to fly injured men to hospital? Does he have some information about this and could he expand on what happened?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I believe the reference is to the Savant Lake or the Allan Water area. I am told the helicopter pilot did pick up the two injured men and bring them to Savant Lake—I believe that was the point—and they were placed on suitable transportation to be taken to Sioux Lookout General Hospital. The report that they actually refused to pick up the men is not correct. As I will repeat, they were picked up from the accident and put on proper transportation which brought them to the Sioux Lookout General Hospital.

PROTECTION FOR RAPE VICTIMS

Mr. S. Smith: One final question, if I might, to the Minister of Labour regarding rape victims, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister planning to introduce any changes to the Employment Standards Act, or to any other code which might apply, to give some protection to rape victims so that their employers would give them reasonable time off after such an event and not harass them unduly?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, this specific problem has arisen only within the past week as a result of the information provided by a victim at the trial which was being held. It is certainly a problem which I think will have to be looked at very carefully.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Would the minister not agree that, in line with other matters such as sick benefits and various allowances of this kind, attention

should be paid to rape victims so that they do have a certain protection when they return to work?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the hon. member means by protection. They most certainly do have the same type of time off as any other individual who has either an illness or has very severe emotional problems. There are many instances in which there are not only maternity leaves and paternity leaves but adoption leaves as well. In most instances I think there would be most definitely some consideration given to an individual who has suffered this kind of attack but we shall look at it very carefully.

OLYMPICS DUTIES OF OPP

Mr. G. E. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General: Could the minister advise the House how many Ontario Provincial Police officers and personnel will be temporarily transferred to the Kingston area to police the sailing events of the Olympics to be held there this summer? Will any motorized equipment be transferred, such as police cruisers—

Mr. Eakins: What areas will go without?

Mr. G. E. Smith: —and OPP patrol boats, and will they be transferred from existing detachments to that area?

Mr. Sargent: It is the same number he told you an hour ago.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I don't have all of those figures. I know that for the most part, policing in the Kingston area, some in Toronto where the soccer games are being held, and some in Ottawa as well, is being done by combined municipal forces, the OPP and the RCMP with some help from the armed services as well.

As far as our own organization, the OPP, is concerned, there will be considerable overtime in connection with it. There will be a gathering of OPP forces in the Kingston area particularly from other detachments across the southern part of Ontario. The exact numbers I can't give you but I can get those figures.

As far as motor equipment is concerned, likewise there will be a transfer from other places in the province of certain motor launches for the two or three weeks involved in the sailing competitions at Kingston. Again, I can't give you the exact number of motor launches. I know that the OPP does have 68 boats altogether which are put in service in

the summertime but I don't know how many of those will be involved in Kingston. I will get the information.

The rest of the province will be suffering somewhat from lack of that equipment and lack of that personnel during the period of the Olympics.

Mr. G. E. Smith: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that, I believe, there are only one or two boats in the Midland-Georgian Bay-Trent/Severn system, including Lake Simcoe, could the minister check with the Ontario Provincial Police to see that there will be at least a minimal amount of water patrol during the summer months? Perhaps the minister might also give us some indication as to how much this whole effort is going to cost the taxpayers of Ontario.

Mr. Reid: Let's swear you in.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: There will be motor launches available, probably not to do basic patrols but for any emergency work that is required they will be available. As to the cost, there are funds in the Solicitor General's budget; some of the money is coming from Wintario as well. At this time I might tell the member for Simcoe East that a lot of it has to remain as an estimate, but I will do my best to get the information that he's asked for on all of the questions.

HOSPITAL BUDGETS

Mr. Deans: I have a question for the Provincial Secretary for Social Development. Is it true that the fees which have been imposed by the Ministry of Health on all hospital capital expenditures will, out of necessity, mean that the \$25-million redevelopment of the Hamilton General Hospital will be delayed; that the St. Joseph's Hospital \$10-million redevelopment will be delayed; and that the health care facility in the east end of the city of Hamilton promised to meet the expanding areas to the eastern portion of the city will also be delayed?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I am sure the member is aware that I wouldn't have that information at my fingertips, but I will make sure that he is given the information when the minister returns.

Mr. Deans: One supplementary question: Is this not a policy matter?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: A policy matter? I think the member is speaking of specific hospitals, and that is within the jurisdiction of the minister himself.

Mr. Deans: One final supplementary question: If it turns out that it is true, as I suspect it is, can the minister explain to me then what function the health council serves—having been told that they were given the responsibility for the expenditures of certain sums of money and to plan the future development of the health needs for the area—if the government is going to intervene in this way and destroy the credibility of the whole operation?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: With all due respect, I would suggest that these are questions that might more rightfully be put to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Mancini: What does the provincial secretary do?

Mr. Deans: What does she do over there?

TRAFFIC PROBLEM AT HYDRO SITE

Mr. Sargent: I have a question for the Minister of Energy. I've always had a suspicion that Hydro has its fair share of idiots in top spots but having been to Douglas Point last week—

Mr. Speaker: Will you get to the question, please?

Mr. Sargent: The question is, in view of the fact—

Mr. Speaker: Make sure it is a question.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The Liberal Party has its fair share of idiots.

Mr. Sargent: —that we have, in Douglas Point, the world's largest nuclear project, we have also the world's largest traffic jam. Every day we have chaos there with—

Mr. Yakabuski: Don't you like prosperity?

Mr. Sargent: —3,000 or 5,000 cars converging from—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Now it's time for the question.

Mr. Sargent: In view of the fact that we have 3,000 to 5,000 cars converging on a single point and we have five accidents a day, will the minister investigate to see why Hydro refuses to co-operate? Further, why did they cancel construction by Lummus of two roads to solve the problem? Will the minister investigate this?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I'm aware that last week the hon. member, with his very large

car and a contingent of press, arrived at the Lummus site, I believe it was on Tuesday, to take part in a demonstration for the benefit of the press.

Mr. Sargent: Sure, and I got there driving by myself, not by the chauffeur the minister has.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I'm also aware, it's an unfortunate thing, that one aspect of the British parliamentary system, namely immunity for members, is so often abused by that member when he makes remarks such as he did about the senior people of Ontario Hydro. There are no finer people working for the people of this province than the senior people of Ontario Hydro.

Mr. Kerrio: Answer the question. We're not here for a lesson.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: With regard to the member's specific question, if he'd bothered to check into this situation he would have found out that in November there was a meeting between representatives of Ontario Hydro, the unions on the site and Lummus. At that time, it was agreed by the union that the situation was tolerable, that it would be impossible to come up with a situation that would be perfect.

Mr. Sargent: The shop steward said that is not true.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The hon. member should withdraw that remark. I have never misled this House.

Mr. Sargent: I will not; the shop stewards say that's not true!

Mr. Speaker: I'm afraid the Speaker did not hear the interjection. I'm not sure if it's out of order or not. Did the hon. member accuse the minister of telling an untruth? Is that true?

Mr. Singer: No.

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: He didn't call him a liar or anything like that.

[2:45]

Mr. S. Smith: Let the minister withdraw.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; could we have less noise. That is not helping.

Mr. Nixon: Send the minister back to Italy.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

An hon. member: Is he just back from Europe?

Mr. Speaker: We are wasting valuable time.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, as I said before, one gets used to the fact that particular member takes such liberties with his rights and privileges as a member of this House.

Mr. Breithaupt: Order, order.

Mr. Nixon: Withdraw.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The fact of the matter is that the meeting was held; it was held in November; and the union, Lummus and Hydro were at the meeting. It was agreed by the union that the situation was tolerable; that it would be impossible to redesign the situation in such a way as to make sure that everybody got on to the highway at the same time. I understand that the traffic jam, if we can call it that, usually means that it takes about 15 minutes for people to get on to the highway and that the member's figure of five accidents per day, I am told, is not correct.

Mr. Sargent: The minister doesn't know what he is talking about. Why doesn't he go up and see it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I have been at Bruce several times. I don't usually arrive with a contingent of reporters and cameras and so forth to try to make a big show on the site, as the hon. member does frequently.

Mr. Breithaupt: That is a change.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of the Environment has the answer to a question asked previously.

Interjections.

Mr. Sargent: A supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: No; order please. This is getting to be a debate. The hon. Minister of the Environment. Will the member take his seat?

Mr. Sargent: No supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: Not on this one. The hon. Minister of the Environment.

Mr. Sargent: No wonder. The Globe and Mail was right—all the time.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member wishes to remain in the House he will remain quiet as well.

Mr. Sargent: There he goes.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Minister of the Environment has the answer to a question.

WATER POLLUTION

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, the leader of the Liberal Party asked me a question on June 7 last regarding concentrations of chloroform in treated drinking water in certain Ontario municipalities. My information is that there is no evidence to suggest that the trace levels found in 1975, and confirmed in subsequent monitoring, presented a human health hazard.

The recent reports carried in the Washington Star, linking chloroform to cancer and birth defects in rodents, are purported to be the results of research studies carried out by federal agencies in the US. No new information has been provided on potential carcinogenic effects. Studies are continuing in the US and the results referred to were based upon massive doses of chloroform which were applied to rats and mice over an extended period of time. The Ministry of Health has previously indicated that "there is no evidence that the trace levels of chloroform detected in some of Ontario's water supplies present any human health hazard."

The newspaper referring to the article from the US has mistakenly concluded that studies at the National Institute of Environmental Health Services at Durham, North Carolina, have linked chloroform to birth defects in mice. The study did report that female mice given city tap water from Durham showed a reduction in the rate of reproduction. Birth defects were not identified.

The institute has not been able to determine the cause of the reduced reproductive rate, and although chloroform levels seven times higher than Ontario's highest recorded levels were present in the water at the time the research was carried out, duplicate studies at similar levels have not verified the earlier findings.

Both the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Health are maintaining close liaison with our counterparts in the US and independent research is being carried out in Ontario on the sources and causes of chloro-

form production in water supplies and treatment options for reducing chloroform levels.

We intend, Mr. Speaker, to continue our research, and monitor studies going on in the US, and are prepared to act expeditiously should evidence suggest that there is a potential health hazard. However, we must at the same time be careful not to bring unnecessary and unjustified anxiety to bear on the public by overstatement or overreaction in response to unsubstantiated reporting.

KIRKLAND LAKE HOSPITAL

Mr. Bain: I have a question of the Minister of Government Services. Is the minister aware that the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services have undertaken a joint study of the chronic care facilities in the Kirkland Lake area to determine whether or not the old Kirkland Lake hospital should be used for such a purpose? If the minister is aware of this, why then is her ministry undertaking to sell the same hospital before this study has even been completed?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of it.

Mr. Bain: Would the minister please look into it and co-ordinate the efforts of her ministry and the ministries of Health and Community and Social Services? It doesn't make much sense, does it—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been asked; no editorial comment is necessary.

Mr. Bain: Okay. I'll ask a simple straightforward question.

Mr. Speaker: You may ask a supplementary.

Mr. Bain: Does it seem appropriate to sell a hospital which is possibly going to be vital to the provision of chronic care facilities once this study determines exactly what the needs are of that community? Will the minister undertake to stop the sale of the hospital until that study is concluded?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, I will examine this matter and take appropriate action.

PITS AND QUARRIES LICENCES

Mr. Gaunt: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources: In view of the fact that under the Pits and Quarries

Control Act the minister can refuse to issue a permit for extractive purposes on the basis of seven factors, I believe, such as traffic density, possible effect on the water table and so on, how many of these factors have to pose a threat before a licence is not issued?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member is referring to section 6 of the Pits and Quarries Control Act. We go over them very carefully. I would have to say that if there is an OMB hearing we look at the OMB recommendations also. The six or seven items to which the member refers are gone over very carefully.

Mr. Gaunt: I take it any one of the seven factors may be used to refuse a licence under these circumstances? In view of that, why has the minister issued conditional licences to TCG and Premier Gravel to operate pits near Erin, in view of the obvious problems they will create?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member I'm sure is aware, there was an OMB hearing on these two applications—to date, the most intensive and lengthy OMB hearing ever held in this province—at which both sides were able to give their views. The OMB recommended in the strongest terms, with certain conditions, that both licences be issued.

At that same hearing, it also made recommendations that the municipal zoning be changed to allow these pits to move ahead. I understand that the zoning is being questioned by a group in that particular area. They have appealed to cabinet for a reversal of the OMB recommendation. I have indicated to the companies that we will issue the licences subject to the approval of that zoning recommendation.

Mr. Cunningham: Doesn't the Minister of Natural Resources think, notwithstanding the decision of the Ontario Municipal Board—

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary question to the original question please.

Mr. Cunningham: Yes. Doesn't he think that is one of the poorest decisions ever made?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I looked at the report of the OMB and I found it to be one of the most intense hearings ever held under the Pits and Quarries Control Act in this province. I felt that both sides had had ample opportunity to express their views.

Mr. Speaker: The supplementary was not really asking for information.

The Minister of Transportation and Communications has the answer to a question asked previously.

CONTROL OF TRAIL BIKES

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give the answer to a question raised on June 1 by the hon. member for Downsview. On that date he asked the following question:

On the control of trail bikes in urban areas, and on the current controversy in North York over trail bike use around areas between Queens Drive and Lawrence Ave. and Don Mills and Leslie . . . what kind of action [is the minister] going to take in order to reassure the citizens who have been complaining that the use of trail bikes in these areas has disrupted the peace of their neighbourhoods, and also [will he] consider allowing the municipalities to pass restricting legislation on trail bikes?

Mr. Speaker, I have been made aware of the problem which exists in the area mentioned by the hon. member through a petition received from members of that community. The problem seems to be two-fold: The immediate problem within the particular community and the long-range one concerning provincial control over the operation of trail bikes in all off-highway settings.

In terms of the former, I am advised that the borough of North York, through its park trespass bylaw No. 10377, amendment 25699 and the noise bylaw No. 24654, can effectively prohibit the use of motorbikes, or trail bikes, in the area mentioned. Further, it is also my understanding that Metropolitan Toronto, which also owns lands in this section of the city, has regulations regarding the operation of off-road recreational vehicles. Mr. Speaker, it would appear to me that adequate control can be brought to bear at the municipal level to deal with the problem.

In response to the hon. member's request that consideration be given to allowing municipalities to pass restricting legislation on trail bikes, it is appropriate to note that section 352, paragraph 58, of the Municipal Act presently provides the authority to prohibit vehicles of any particular kind from various areas within a municipality; including parks, boulevards, sidewalks, etc.

Vehicles such as trail bikes, when operated on a public road, are required to be licensed; as well, the driver must be licensed and their operation is subject to police enforcement like any other motor vehicle.

AID TO NORTHERN ONTARIO FARMERS

Mr. Angus: I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Now that his

ministry staff has met with 60-odd representatives of the farm community in Thunder Bay to discuss the severity of the drought situation effects upon the community, could he advise this House how severe the problem is and what steps the ministry will take to support the farmers?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, there was a meeting the other night. I have a report, which I just received today, from my staff in the various areas of Rainy River, Kenora and in those areas of the province where the problem exists. We have had some rain, apparently, in the last few days but a lot of the hay is heading out before it should be heading out and it's running behind at this point in time.

We've looked into the availability of where hay may be purchased. There is some, apparently, in Manitoba that could be purchased for approximately \$25 a ton in the field. The transportation costs are fairly high. It has been recommended to me that we should see exactly what happens in the harvest and what we do get before we make a true appraisal of the overall situation.

Mr. Angus: By way of a supplementary, inasmuch as there are some major droughts in the United States and the possibility exists that what hay is available in Manitoba now, may not be available by the time the crop is harvested in Thunder Bay, could the minister not undertake to bring in enough hay at this point to see the group through the summer feeding months and, hopefully, be able to pick up some more hay in the second crop out west?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, there is a good possibility some of the hay could have been cut by now and arrangements might be made to obtain a second cut of hay from some other source. It's very hard to estimate the total damage until we see what the weather is like from this point in time onwards.

POLICE BRUTALITY REPORT

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Solicitor General. Could he advise us whether or not he has received from Mr. Justice Morand the report of his investigation into alleged police brutality in Metropolitan Toronto? If not, how is it that the press seems to be able to comment, somewhat intelligently, on what the report contains? Can the report, or the essence of it, be made available to the justice committee so that it can be discussed as the Solicitor General's estimates go on and not have to wait until after the

House is over, when the opportunity for discussion will have passed by?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I have not yet received a copy of Mr. Justice Morand's report. I understood from talking to my deputy this morning that he expected it would be in our hands by July 1. I thought that was a very convenient time to receive it.

Mr. Singer: Yes, oh yes.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: However, if some of it has become public I don't know how. I will make some inquiries and if it is available I will be pleased to supply it to the justice committee.

FOREST FIRES

Mr. Lane: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Natural Resources a question. Could he tell me why American military equipment was used to fight fires in northern Ontario as opposed to Canadian equipment, or was that the case?

[3:00]

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, there has been a question raised by a number of people as to why we went to the United States for this type of equipment. I would have to admit to the hon. member that on Monday last, a week ago today, my staff did contact the federal authorities with regard to certain types of equipment we required in the peak of our emergency, and we were told on that day that the equipment we required was busy transporting personnel to and from the Olympic site.

I would have to say further that on Thursday last, three days later, the military did contact us and offer us equipment but at that time we had already made arrangements. Through the excellent co-operation of the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa, we were able to get the co-operation of the American Forestry Service, and that is why the equipment came in from Boise, Idaho.

Mr. Foulds: Could the minister give us any kind of an estimate of the cost of the firefighting this year in comparison to last year at this stage?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I can get the exact figures for the hon. member. During the height of last week's emergency we were paying about \$100,000 a day for helicopters

alone, and the overall cost was about \$425,000 per day. But I can get the total figure once the information is all clarified and available.

Mr. Speaker: A final supplementary, the member for Grey-Bruce.

Mr. Sargent: Would the minister tell me if the co-ordinates for the water bombing are set here in Toronto or—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not supplementary to this question.

Mr. Sargent: I'm talking about firefighting.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member take his seat?

Mr. Sargent: We are talking about firefighting up north.

Mr. Speaker: No, we are not. We are talking about another question completely.

[The member for York South has a question.]

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I don't know what you can do about ministers who escape before the question period is over, but I would draw it to your attention. I will turn my time over to the hon. member for Durham East (Mr. Moffatt).

ACCESS TO OSHAWA MARSH

Mr. Moffatt: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources. I would like to know if the minister met last week with other ministries and with representatives from the city of Oshawa to discuss the future of the Oshawa Second Marsh and the expansion of Darlington Provincial Park?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Moffatt: A supplementary: At that time, did the minister undertake to assure the city of Oshawa that the Beaton farm, instead of being used for expansion of the Darlington Provincial Park, would be zoned so that the Monsanto chemical company could establish a chemical industrial park in that area?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The discussions were along those lines.

CLOSURE OF ARENAS

Mr. McKesock: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that the Harriston arena and

others appear to be in exceptional condition, even though the engineering firm did not confirm this, does her ministry have any thought of amending the procedure in dealing with these problems and would the ministry reconsider the closing of the Harriston arena?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, although the Harriston arena may look to be in excellent condition, if the engineer says it isn't and it doesn't meet the National Building Code, we have no option—

Mr. Mancini: Who approved it in the first place?

Hon. B. Stephenson: —unless the local municipality wishes to take the entire responsibility for the safety of the individuals who use that arena. If they wish to do that, I suppose they might find some legal method of doing so—

Mr. Sargent: Give them the option.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —but at the present time it is our responsibility to ensure the safety of the people who use that arena. We have stated very specifically that where the counselling engineer believes that the arena roof can withstand the wind stresses of the summer months, it may remain open until Oct. 15. Those arenas which are repaired or restructured during that period of time, of course, will be able to operate again next winter as long as they come up to the National Building Code.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I want to raise a point of privilege with respect to the statement by the Minister of Community and Social Services to the Legislature this afternoon. There are two points. First of all, he was caught red-handed with respect to the arithmetic errors, as the Hansard record will verify—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a point of privilege. What is the other point?

Mr. McClellan: Secondly, he continues to provide us with phoney statistical information—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a point of privilege. The member's privileges

have not been transgressed in any respect whatsoever.

Mr. Lewis: The figures are wrong.

Mr. Speaker: I can't help that.

SOUND SYSTEM

Mr. Singer: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, you may recall that some time ago I was complaining to you about the effectiveness of the PA system in this chamber. It has improved, but it still is terrible. Down at this end of the House we can hardly hear what's going on. We miss the colloquy that goes on between the Leader of the Opposition and his favourite cabinet ministers. I'm sure it must be worth hearing, but we can't hear it under this present PA system that we have.

Mr. Lewis: It is. It is a pity.

Mr. Speaker: I agree, but I might say that the matter of the effectiveness of the PA system is not completed yet.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell presented the annual report of the Ontario Energy Board for the year ending March 31, 1976.

Mr. Johnson from the standing resources development committee reported the following resolution:

Resolved: That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977:

Ministry of Transportation and Communications

Ministry administration programme	\$26,294,000
Planning, research and development programme	14,711,000
Safety and regulation programme	26,953,000
Provincial roads programme	407,358,000
Provincial transit programme	37,853,000
Air programme	3,550,000
Municipal roads programme	296,060,000
Municipal transit programme	168,117,000
Communications programme	3,777,000

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Introduction of bills.

Orders of the day.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Just so there is no confusion in connection with the order in which legislation will be called today, may I at this point indicate that the order would be as follows, and I'm now referring to orders: 14, 15, 16, 18, 9, 12 and 17. That is the general order in which we hope to proceed today.

MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved second reading of Bill 100, An Act to amend the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, 1972.

Mr. Renwick: We have examined the bill and we are not going to oppose the bill on second reading. I do wish the bill would go into committee of the whole House because there is some concern which I have about one of the provisions of the bill and the extent of the amendment which is being made. I refer specifically to the amendment to subsection 4 of section 1. I do believe the explanation and the discussion of it would best be carried on in committee and therefore we will not oppose second reading of the bill.

Mr. Stong: We do not oppose the second reading of this bill as well. We agree in principle with what it intends to accomplish.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Attorney General have any response?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I have no response.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the bill has been ordered for committee of the whole House.

Agreed.

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Norton, on behalf of **Hon. Mr. McKeough,** moved second reading of Bill 101, An Act to amend the District Municipality of Muskoka Act.

Mr. Swart: I am wondering if the parliamentary assistant would consider adding to this bill—and if not we'll move an amendment in the clause-by-clause discussion—the same clause which was added to the other regional government bills. This provided that the municipalities within those regional gov-

ernments—in this case the district of Muskoka—would have the authority to amend by by-law the ward system within the municipalities and whereby the ratepayers of those municipalities would have the right of appeal. It would seem to me that would be a reasonable thing to do in view of the fact that last week even the members of the government party, after calling a division on this, had decided to support it and did vote in favour of it.

This bill, too, should go to the committee of the whole House. It seems to me we are generally in favour of it with the understanding that that section would be added to this bill. Perhaps the parliamentary assistant would like to move such a section when we go into committee of the whole House.

However, there are other sections on which we would like to pose some questions and make some comments.

Mr. Good: Mr. Speaker, the amendments in this bill are almost the same and are comparable to the amendments to the Municipal Act in Bill 89, which I don't believe we have dealt with up to now.

There are, however, a few exceptions which relate only to the district of Muskoka. The usual things, such as the broadening of borrowing powers and the broadening of debenture authority and investment powers, are similar to those amendments contained in Bill 89. The granting and lending powers of the district will be broadened and will be similar to those granted other municipalities which are now enjoyed under section 248(a). Replacement of an area councillor can now be done in 60 days rather than 30 days.

There are a few things which I think are worth mentioning. One is the district police liaison committee is now required to meet only every three months instead of every month. I wonder if this is an indication that the liaison committee is finding that it has very little, if any, power or authority to influence the police commission?

Perhaps we should use this as another opportunity to look at the whole matter of whether or not police commissions should be made up of the personnel they now have. At present on the police commissions across the province there are very few elected representatives. They do include members of the judiciary. We, in this party, have felt there has been a long-standing need for a change in the composition of police commissions.

This district police liaison committee is now going to be required to meet only every three months. One wonders whether they

have had any particular input into the operation of the district police.

Another interesting point is that the district, I believe, took over the collection of garbage and sewage disposal some time last year. This is a district function now, as of 1975. I understand that in some of the regions where the collection of garbage and the collection of sewage as well as the treatment of sewage has been taken over by the region, there has been some dissatisfaction. I believe some of the area governments in the region of Durham would like to have those powers returned from the region to the area municipalities. Maybe the parliamentary assistant could comment on how this is working out in Muskoka.

[3:15]

It is interesting to again see the reference made to the pollution control fund. When this bill was set up in the municipalities, I believe the district could levy a quarter of a mill on all the assessment in the district to raise a control fund to be used by that district. This is now clarified in the bill. And the provincial grant section of the original bill—which I believe allotted \$150,000 a year for five years to Muskoka for general environmental development purposes, and \$50,000 for administration costs—has now come to an end, and the district must now make it on its own. The deletion of that section negates those proposals in the bill.

However, we are reminded in the deletion of this section of the actions of the government in 1971 when they divided \$2 million from the consolidated revenue of the province on top of all the statutory requirements of this and other bills, and the \$2 million was subsequently divided among the various new regional governments, in which there was a great deal of discontent at that time. I think Niagara region got \$1 million of that; York got about three-quarters; and I think Muskoka got about \$250,000, or one-quarter of \$1 million.

So, although we have the reference to the deletion of these statutory requirements in the bill, there are still the powers under other legislation whereby the province can make specific grants in those areas where it deems it practical and necessary.

But, generally speaking, I suppose the bill brings up to date much of the legislation and is parallel to those amendments effected in Bill 89 of the Municipal Act, so we will support it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does any other member have any comments? The hon. member for Riverdale.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to emphasize what my colleague, the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) has said. We consider that we gave a thorough consideration to the substantial provisions of this bill at the time when we dealt with Bill 55, and to an extent when we dealt with the bill amending the regional municipalities Acts, and also Bill 54 dealing with the bill amending the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

It does appear to us that, while there are two or three sections to which the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Good) referred special to the district municipality of Muskoka, nevertheless any such comment would be best made in committee of the whole House. I do hope that the parliamentary assistant to the minister will be certain to be clear about his intentions with respect to incorporating in this bill an amendment similar to the one which my colleague, the member for Welland-Thorold, introduced when we dealt with Bill 55. When the government so graciously agreed to support the amendment made by my colleague when the vote was being counted on second reading, it would be somewhat ungracious if the government did not now accede to my colleague's request to have a similar amendment incorporated in this bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Any other comments from any other member? If not, the member for Kingston and the Islands.

Mr. Norton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I first could address some remarks to the proposal of the hon. member for Welland-Thorold. Clearly I have, and I am sure the members of the other caucuses have no difficulty accepting the principle which he is advocating and which was incorporated in the other legislation. But, I would draw to his attention that the district of Muskoka differs from the other municipalities in that at the present time, as I understand it, it is unique in that the boundaries of the wards are defined in the Act as opposed to the manner in which they have been dealt with in the other municipalities. For that reason, members might note that we have not included in this proposed legislation the provision with respect to the OMB appeal from the municipality. That was done for a specific reason, because we want to initiate discussions with the municipalities in the district of Muskoka with respect to that very

point to ensure that whatever formula may be developed is one which is acceptable to them.

Recognizing the unique nature of their municipal setup at the moment and the unique description of their ward boundaries, I would urge the member not to introduce such an amendment at this time, although I can assure him that once we have a formula worked out with those municipalities, the principle which he advocates is clearly one which ought to be included. The municipalities themselves at the moment would have to come to the Legislature in order to have their ward boundaries redefined, so it is a different situation from the other. I would ask that he allow us an opportunity to complete our consultation with those municipalities before any such action is considered. I realize it is unfortunate that they will be the only municipality that does not have that provision at the present time, but that unfortunately is a consequence of the unique way in which their ward boundaries were set out in the original legislation.

I do, Mr. Speaker, have an amendment which I propose to introduce, and I believe the members opposite now have copies of it, an amendment relating to section 6 specifically expanding upon the powers of the district municipalities with respect to the expenditure of moneys from the pollution control fund. I will introduce that in committee of the whole House, assuming that is where this bill will go following second reading.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Do you wish this bill to go to committee of the whole House?

Mr. Norton: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: So ordered.

MUNICIPAL SUBSIDIES ADJUSTMENT REPEAL ACT

Mr. Norton, on behalf of Hon. Mr. McKeough, moves second reading of Bill 102, an Act to repeal the Municipal Subsidies Adjustment Act.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, we have some reservations about the repeal of the Municipal Subsidies Adjustment Act. It is true that the minister, in tabling the Act, stated that there is a very small amount of funds involved at the present time—and I believe I'm correct in stating that he said it was less than \$30,000—and that it does provide for some continu-

ance of the payment of the funds even though the Act is repealed.

However, it seems to me that it has broader implications than that and, subject to the answer given by the minister or his parliamentary assistant, we may be forced to oppose this Act. The question is just simply this: What takes place with regard to assistance to municipalities or the sections of municipalities which are left in the case of future annexations or amalgamations? There are always additional costs involved to the sections left, or perhaps to the sections and the municipality which does the amalgamating or the annexing, but if we repeal this Act there will be no provision other than the present formulas to assist that section of the municipality that is left.

Under this Act they can get some special assistance from MTC for a period of time. They can get some special assistance with regard to unconditional grants but if this is repealed there will be no form of assistance that I know of, at least, which will be available to these municipalities or sections of municipalities.

We are aware, of course, that very few amalgamations and annexations have taken place in recent times. That does not mean that with the end of the formation of regional governments—or at least a pause in the formations or a change—annexations and amalgamations will not again appear. If this Act is repealed, the assistance given to those under these special circumstances will not be available. Therefore, I'd like to hear the explanation of the parliamentary assistant as to what the intent of this is and what provision is available in lieu of this section of the Act if annexations or amalgamations take place.

Mr. Good: Mr. Speaker, six or eight years ago I'm sure we would have had to oppose the repeal of this Municipal Subsidies Adjustment Act. I checked carefully and this is a very important piece of legislation in areas such as Waterloo township, for instance, which saw its best roads and its best assessments being taken over by annexation to the cities of Kitchener and Waterloo. I'm sure this occurred in many areas.

The argument put forth here, I presume, is that so much of the province is now under regional government and the division of grants in the merged areas is covered by special legislation dealing with that region, that this particular legislation is no longer needed. The smaller townships and rural communities which saw their land, their best roads, their best buildings and their best

assessments being taken over by a municipality had some redress in payment over five years at a standard amount and then five years at a diminishing amount. They benefited for 10 years under the provisions of this Act.

One wonders what the implications will be with the repeal of this Act in areas such as Sarnia, London and Windsor which are major communities not covered by regional government legislation but where there could be a considerable amount of annexation still going on or about to go on in the future.

The explanation that unconditional grants are now at such a level that this is no longer needed is not all that convincing. When the police grant went up \$5 per capita two years ago and police costs went up \$8 per capita, that's not convincing that the provincial grant is all that great. We find that police costs continue to rise but the provincial grant remains static. We're not all that convinced that the reason given is that substantial.

The number of municipalities affected is perhaps a convincing argument. I'm sure most of the major annexations and amalgamations did take place in areas which are covered by regional government. There are subsidies under the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs amounting to only \$17,000 and I believe they cover very few municipalities—eight municipalities. There are 24 municipalities getting these subsidy adjustments under the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the proposal here is to continue the payment to those which now qualify or have the option to pay them off in a lump sum.

[3:30]

I think the whole matter must resolve itself to how many annexations are about to be had, how many are contemplating it, how many are before the OMB now and how many have been completed. We have the figures here on how many have been completed and would be eligible for this subsidy.

I am sure the bill served a very useful purpose at the time. Are we, in fact, being given to understand that annexation is a dying art and that it is no longer going to be necessary? I wish he would refer specifically to some of our larger communities in southern Ontario that are not covered by regional governments where this legislation might still be of considerable relevance.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does any other member wish to comment on this bill? If not, the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands,

Mr. Norton: The statements in the material which the members opposite have received with respect to unconditional grants are not intended to be taken, as they seemed to be interpreted by, I think, the hon. member for Welland-Thorold, that the standard formula grants would be all that would be applied in this situation in the future. What is contemplated is that where payments would normally be made and would be made in the future in cases of annexations or amalgamations, those would now be dealt with under the provisions of section 8 of the Municipal Unconditional Grants Act in providing for special payments for periods of up to five years in order to provide the same kind of assistance, but under the Municipal Unconditional Grants Act, as has been done with regional municipalities.

As has been indicated as well and I think you are aware, since 1974 of the some eight municipalities that were eligible under the provisions of the Municipal Subsidies Adjustment Act, none had applied for the assistance, partly I suppose because of the very small quantity involved. I think that is why the reference was included in the material to the fact that the increase in unconditional grants over the last few years appears to be a factor in that these municipalities have not bothered to even make application.

I have a list here of what some municipalities would have been eligible for in 1976; one grant is for \$27 and another for \$29. The largest is \$1,755. The amounts are less significant to municipalities compared with the increase in unconditional grants. But I don't want you to confuse that statement with the implication that that is all that would be available in terms of assistance under these circumstances of amalgamation and annexation in the future. It is contemplated there would be continuing assistance where necessary, but under the provisions of the Municipal Unconditional Grants Act.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 102, An Act to repeal the Municipal Subsidies Adjustment Act.

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH PLANTAGENET ACT

Mr. Norton, on behalf of Hon. Mr. McKeough, moved second reading of Bill 105,

An Act respecting the Township of North Plantagenet.

Mr. Renwick: I assume that had this bill come forward in the ordinary course as a private bill to the private bills' committee, it would have been given the same kind of consideration and dealt with in the same way as we have dealt with many bills of this kind over the years. In this particular session we have dealt with, amongst others, Bill Pr25, respecting the township of Bosanquet. This bill is identical with that bill, and therefore we would vote in favour of second reading of the bill. We see no reason why the bill need go through a committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Any other comment on this bill?

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading upon motion:

Bill 105, An Act respecting the Township of North Plantagenet.

ONTARIO NEW HOME WARRANTIES PLAN ACT

Hon. Mr. Handleman moved second reading of Bill 94, An Act to provide certain Protections for Purchasers of New Homes.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I felt perhaps we could save some time if I elaborated a little bit on the statement I made on the introduction for first reading.

I would like to explain to hon. members how the warranty and compensation plan will be administered and the reasons why we have chosen this alternative. When I introduced the legislation at the end of May, I said that under the Act we would designate a non-profit corporation responsible for administering the plan and enforcing its requirements. I would just like to elaborate briefly on that.

A non-profit corporation has been set up in this province under the aegis of HUDAC—the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada, Ontario Council. And we worked very closely with the council in the development of the plan to protect purchasers of new homes in Ontario.

I should point out that the corporation's bylaws provide that, in addition to the HUDAC members there will be representa-

tion from—and I list them in this order—any association of consumers; any association of home manufacturers; any mortgage lender or any association of mortgage lenders, including an association of loan and trust companies; any mortgage insurance company, or any association of mortgage insurance companies; the Ontario government; municipal government in the form of any association of mayors or reeves; and any other association or group of persons as may be determined by the board.

HUDAC has indicated and demonstrated to our satisfaction that it has the confidence and ability to run a home warranty programme. In Alberta, for example, judging by the experience gathered over a period of more than a year, a home warranty programme administered by HUDAC seems to be working relatively well without any supporting legislation.

In Ontario, HUDAC has indicated by and large that its members are aware of consumer interest. The fact is that in our ministry the majority of complaints against home builders are against non-HUDAC builders.

There is one other major benefit from choosing this alternative. Because HUDAC provides the expertise based on experience, there is no need to set up any government machinery to administer the programme. As a result, buyers of new homes receive significant protection without the input of any public funds. To repeat briefly how the programme works, Mr. Speaker, so all hon. members have it fresh in their minds, I would just like to outline very briefly the coverage:

The unsatisfied home purchaser will be able to call upon the services of the designated corporation for conciliation. All builders, whether they are members of HUDAC or not will be required to meet certain standards and to register with the corporation in order to operate in Ontario. Builders failing to meet the standards which are set out in the Act will be deregistered.

The warranty package will be funded by participating builders at a fixed rate for each new house which is placed on the market. During the first year, the builder is liable for any repairs resulting from defects in workmanship or material. During the next four years, the corporation will repair major structural defects. If the builder defaults, the corporation will assume responsibility for repairs at its own expense. The controls are built into the legislation. A builder who is refused registration by the corporation has the right to appeal to the Commercial Registra-

tion Appeal Tribunal. Similarly, if a dispute arises between the corporation and the new homeowner CRAT will mediate.

No other province in Canada, including those immediately to the west of us, has come out with a plan which is as uniform in application and as comprehensive in the protection and coverage provided. We feel that if we expect industry to behave responsibly and with maturity we in government, must give them the opportunity to do so. In this case, we have every confidence that we will not be disappointed in the self regulation provided for in this Act.

Mr. Moffatt: Mr. Speaker, we in this party intend to support the bill which is before the House and hope it will go to committee for substantial amendments. Despite the minister's closing comment that this legislation is beyond parallel and leads the rest of Canada—particularly provinces to the west—I really don't understand that particular comment. I don't understand why the minister continually insists on using comparisons with other jurisdictions as a rationalization for bad legislation, no matter what form it takes, in this particular province.

There are some eminently good points to this bill. We congratulate the minister for bringing it in but we do not intend, by our congratulatory remarks, to tell the minister that everything in the bill is correct. I hope that during the next few minutes I will be able to point out some of the areas where we would like to see substantial changes made. I hope the minister will comply with those requests.

First of all, I think one of the things which should be pointed out is that the undue haste with which we probably will deal with this bill is a disservice to us.

We have waited five years or more for this particular bill. It was promised last session and in this session and then we find it introduced as the session is drawing to a close. That will obviously lead to some hasty and—I hope not, but it's quite likely—badly considered legislation. We are going to attempt to scrutinize it as carefully as possible. I hope the minister will accept the scrutiny in the tone and spirit in which it is intended. I do suggest that the minister and his ministry should be criticized for bringing it in at such a late date and trying to proceed with such undue haste on such an important problem.

The reason the bill is before us, I might point out, is because of the number of complaints which have surfaced over the past six months. Over the past six or 10 years or so

there have been significant difficulties in the purchase of new homes. People have been faced with a raft of problems not of their own making but in most cases as a result of shoddy workmanship, poor craftsmanship and lack of attention.

The unfortunate thing that happens, as always happens in this kind of situation, is that a number of reputable and craftsman-like builders and contractors are lumped into the tank with the rest of the people and they have mud splattered on them along with the ones who deserve to have the mud splattering.

It has not been a general trend. It has been a specific number of complaints from a variety of communities because builders have become very mobile. In seeking work they moved from community to community and a few have spoiled the reputation of an entire industry. That's extremely unfortunate and the minister should have acted earlier in order to prevent a further erosion of public confidence in the construction industry.

The point which I think also needs to be made is that part of the problem we are facing now, with so many emergency situations in subdivisions from one end of the province to another, is of the government's own making. Last year it was deemed advisable to elect or re-elect the Davis government as quickly as possible and one of the ways that could be achieved, apparently most efficiently, was to give away money to people who would sign on the dotted line and agree to purchase new homes. Of course, the more people you give money to the more people you would have voting for the present government.

[3:45]

That is one of the major contributing factors to the crisis in this province as far as new home buyers are concerned right now. They were forced to get occupancy of those units last year before the bill ran out. They moved in when the houses were not properly completed. Had they not been trying to compete for this handout from the government, they would have had far fewer problems because they would not have accepted those houses, unless the gun of having the home buyer grant withdrawn had been held at their heads. A lot of people moved into houses that under normal circumstances they would not have accepted.

I hope we are finished with that whole business and that we will not get into those short-term, short-sighted programmes in the future. I think this will perhaps prevent that kind of thing from happening because, as soon as we attempt to use housing as a gim-

mick to reject a certain government, HUDAC hopefully will be able to say that is inadvisable and it will not honour those particular commitments. I think that kind of political short-sightedness will come to an end. I certainly hope so.

I said there were problems in dealing with the bill. I hope one of the things that will happen is that we will be able to put a sensible period of warranty on the particular houses under consideration. This bill attempts to deal in a one-year fashion with the warranty situation. The only other place where there is this kind of programme where that has been done is in the State of Victoria in Australia. They have a one-year programme there. In Great Britain the programme is much longer and in other jurisdictions the programme is much longer.

This legislation is a result of consultation with and recommendations by the Ontario Law Reform Commission, the National Home Builders Registration Council in Great Britain and the Victoria, Australia programme. A great deal of input has come from the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada, Ontario Council. We are in agreement with using that particular group as the carrier.

We would like the minister to be very cognizant of the fact that at some point such an organization must become in some way answerable to his ministry and through his ministry to this particular Legislature. It is not enough to create another institution, another quasi-judicial body, though I understand that's a contradiction in terms—it's either judicial or not judicial—that functions somewhere outside of government and deals with the public. Eventually such organizations have to be responsible to this Legislature. I would urge the minister to consider that sort of alteration at this point.

The recommendation of the Law Reform Commission was that the programme continue so that a house would be under warranty for six years. In this bill it's one year. In Great Britain it is longer than that. I believe it is two years. What we would recommend, and hope to move amendments to, is that the registration will take place and then under the home warranty protection the house will go through a period of thaw and freeze and thaw again, because through that cycle of events in this province that is the most appropriate time to look for major structural defects which may show up. I'd just like to read the Law Reform Commission recommendations:

In the light of the fact that evidence of many important defects in construction may not appear for several years after the house is first occupied and in order that rights given under the statute will not be out of line with similar rights which may arise out of a contract, the limitation period applicable to the cause of action based on a breach of the duty set out in the statute should be six years. This period should run from the date on which the initial purchaser takes possession of the house.

That's obviously going to be an important point as far as we are concerned.

The insurance against major structural defects then is only for four more years, giving a total warranty period of five years. I really urge the minister to consider amending this himself. It would be much easier if we were to go for a 10-year period on that. If the house will not stand up to a warranty programme which runs for 10 years, then surely there is something wrong. There obviously needs to be that kind of assurance to people that that length of warranty will be in keeping with the kind of money we're expecting people to spend on houses.

I am concerned with the inspection procedure in this particular legislation. Recently in my riding a number of people have had grave difficulties with a builder and came to me for assistance. We went to the local building inspector. We arranged an inspection of all the agencies concerned—plumbing, electrical, gas and so on. When we got to the site and all those people were there at the same time, the building inspector from the city of Oshawa pointed out to me that the builder was building to the absolute minimum. He was using the Ontario Building Code as though it were a set of blueprints and he would go only to those limits that he absolutely had to.

The result was that in these particular houses that I visited, the people were grossly dissatisfied with the action. They blamed everybody. They blamed the building inspector. They assumed he had not inspected. The building inspector had inspected, but he had only two people on his staff in the city of Oshawa due to budget constraints. With the amount of building in that area, they could not keep up and make the kind of inspections which were necessary.

I am really concerned that in this case we will not have adequate inspection in order to protect people from these particular defects that will be of two kinds—the structural

defects and what are referred to as cosmetic defects. If paint is splattered on a window and the window has to be replaced, that's a cosmetic defect. That sort of thing isn't covered in the building code.

An interior door in a home may not be made of wood. I have in my car, a sample of a part of a door from a new house constructed in Oshawa. Do you know what it's made of, Mr. Speaker? It's made of one-eighth-inch Masonite on each side, and the core of it is a strip—not even solid, but a strip—of corrugated cardboard. I can show you that, Mr. Speaker, if you would like to see it some time. That, I think, is an incredible thing, because it is not covered in the building code. Nobody really cares about what the interior of the house is like. As long as the building code specifies certain things, then we are not going to worry about some very important items in the house.

It seems to me that one of the things that needs to happen is that there are amendments necessary in the building code. Maybe the HUDAC people will be able to inform the minister of some of those amendments or regulations which should be amended—changes that really need to come into being. If they get faced with the problem of enforcing all of this legislation, it may well be that there won't be just two or three members of the Legislature writing to the minister every day asking him to do something. It may well be that an even more powerful group of people will begin to impress upon him the need for some amendments to those particular regulations.

Mr. Warner: Who are they?

Mr. Moffatt: I am not sure who they are but we will draw our own conclusions from that. In Great Britain the National Home Builders Registration Council has a 12-step inspection programme. No house is complete until it has had those 12 inspections. That's not because the inspections are necessary. It is simply because over a period of time they have found that to be a very important part of such a programme. There has to be some kind of minimal inspection tied into this particular bill and I ask the minister to consider that very carefully.

In regard to section 23 of this particular bill, I gather that when the bill was first printed and brought out, the people at HUDAC were entirely amazed that they had been given all the powers to regulate and to run the entire programme. They had expected to be the carriers, but I don't think, with respect, that they really thought they

would have as much power as has been given in this particular bill. I am assured that the person who is right now running the registration procedure is an extremely able person at HUDAC, but I gather, too, that he's close to retirement and we may not always have such an able person. I think that maybe that particular section of the bill, when we get to committee, will be tightened up to some extent.

As I said before, this particular party intends to support the bill because we know it has been long overdue, but we have substantial amendments which we trust the minister will accept as we go through debate clause by clause.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, The Liberal Party intends to support this legislation. We welcome it. It is long overdue, in our view. It has been part of our policy for a number of years to recommend such a warranty programme and as well, we have noted with interest that the Ontario Law Reform Commission, and I think the hon. member for—

Mr. Moffatt: Durham East.

Mr. Cunningham: —Durham East, pointed out correctly too, that it was the intention of the Ontario Law Reform Commission to have such a warranty programme, some time ago I would add. I think it was 1966 that their original recommendation came through and, just as an aside, I hope it doesn't take us this long in the future to take into consideration some of the recommendations that are made, quite appropriately, by that body, because I think that they do tend to serve the interests of Ontario very well.

I too would look forward to some definition as to what you mean by wear and tear, and possibly we might look at a more clear and distinct definition of wear and tear here in this legislation. While I am supportive personally, and I know my party is, of this legislation, I am not sure if we would adhere to the idea that we should have it for a period of 10 years. My fear, at least on a personal basis, would be the consumer ultimately is going to pay for this, and I think that the builders, especially in these first few years of the warranty programme, will attempt to build in to the cost of housing the cost of maintaining a home for 10 years.

We all know that homes deteriorate; certainly it could relate to a faulty run of raw material or occasionally to some shoddy workmanship, and often a combination of

both. But to some degree, I would hope that we continue to have some emphasis on the old doctrine of caveat emptor and that the consumers, most of whom are over 21, will go in and they will look at things like the member for Durham East mentioned, faulty doors. I am sure the doors were there when they bought the house—

Mr. Deans: The house wasn't there, that is the trouble.

Mr. Cunningham: I'm sorry?

Mr. Deans: That is where you are wrong, they are not there. That is what everybody assumes. That is the problem with it.

Mr. Cunningham: That may be an area that we will have to look at as far as an amendment goes. I think with most houses that are built, the consumers go in and they take a look and they spend a great deal of time looking over their home.

Mr. McClellan: Especially when they are not built.

Mr. Cunningham: As far as complaints are concerned, I think the minister would probably agree, and I am sure some of my friends to the right of me would, that on so many occasions the people who are at fault are the people who get into this business on an overnight basis and, as a result of their shoddy workmanship, are usually out of business on an overnight basis. To this end, I would suggest that these people are not usually members of HUDAC but are people who are just as shoddy in their approach to business as some people who go door to door, or some auto mechanics that we have. It is just a very simple and fundamental fact of life that some people will try to take advantage of the situation as it comes up simply for profit.

I am not familiar with the plan in Great Britain, although I have had some criticism addressed to me; one of my constituents wrote me a note dated June 4 and he said:

I am sure that you do not have to be made aware of the fact that a programme of this nature is just going to cost the poor old consumer more money and was, of course, the result of what I describe as a deplorable tendency to convince the Canadian consumer that he is hard done by. As far as housing is concerned, Canadians are the best housed people in the world and the contractor who did not look after his deficiencies soon ceases to remain in business.

Notwithstanding the warranty programme I think this kind of situation is going to continue to exist. I hope we are setting a minimum type of situation by this legislation, and that the general demand by the people of Ontario will continue to be a demand for excellence, a demand for the better, and to that end I hope the competitive process that exists in Canada—and I hope it continues to exist in this province in the future—will remain and that the people of Ontario will have that option to go out through their communities and seek out the best form of housing available to them, to query the builders and to examine the various subdivisions that exist and to make their individual choice.

I think that is very fundamental and integral to the thought within our party. To this end, I would commend the government for bringing in this programme. I don't think any of us are of the view that this time of the year has any adverse effect on us as far as our ability to decide whether it's a good programme or a bad programme. The harsh facts of reality are it's a programme that is long overdue and one that we in the Liberal Party will support.

[4:00]

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I have probably been with this longer than anybody else in terms of trying to get a programme. First of all, let's talk about the concept of long overdue. The "long overdue" rests upon the shoulders of a gentleman by the name of Basford and then a gentleman by the name of Danson.

Mr. Cunningham: Here we go.

Mr. Drea: No, here we don't go, my friend, because this time we can look, I had to go to those things—

Mr. Cunningham: Pass the buck every time.

Mr. Edighoffer: Keep going, Sid; keep going.

Mr. Drea: I'm not going to be provocative, but I'm not going to take that kind of insult from some twerp.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member for Scarborough Centre address the Chair and ignore the interjections?

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I want to go back to 1974, when a gentleman by the name of—

Mr. Swart: Back is a natural direction for you people.

Mr. Drea: That is when we began the housing warranty programme in Ontario. That's when the first discussions took place.

Mr. Good: What do you mean "we"?

Mr. Swart: When?

Mr. Drea: In the summer of 1974.

Mr. Deans: I have been involved in this since 1967.

Mr. Drea: I'm sure you have—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Wentworth doesn't have the floor, the hon. member for Scarborough Centre does, and I'll hope he'll address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, in the summer of 1974 there was a concerted effort by the house-building industry across this country—not only in this province—to take advantage of what was a promise, a commitment and a very solemn pledge by the then federal housing minister, Mr. Basford, that what was needed in the area of new home construction concerning warranties was a national plan. There was the gravest of reservations that a number of provincial plans would merely impede the orderly development of new housing construction in Canada.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is no reference to a national programme or plan in this bill.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, it evolved out of an interprovincial bill where every one of the provinces would have the exact same warranty bill. I just want to go into the "long overdue" business, and I think that's germane. I'm not going to go into it for very long, and I'm not going to blame more than two people.

Mr. Good: Long overdue.

Mr. Kerrio: Sidney Handleman. Who else?

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, this government committed itself to a housing warranty programme, almost identical to what is being debated today, very late in the summer of 1974. We held back for two reasons. First of all, the federal government—and by that time the minister was Mr. Danson—asked us to hold back on a provincial warranty programme because they hoped to get a national programme or, if they could not do that, at least an interprovincial warranty programme

under the general auspices of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corp. We held back at that time.

Mr. Shore: You are not divulging any secret information, are you?

Mr. Drea: No, I've said this before.

Mr. Shore: I thought this was some government information.

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that if you want me to speak to you—

An hon. member: Contain yourself.

Mr. Drea: —Mr. Speaker, following that there were a number of meetings in conjunction with either the federal government or on an interprovincial basis, dealing with the entire programme of housing warranties. They continued until the early summer of 1975. At that time it became apparent that the federal government, despite its commitments, despite its pledges and despite its press releases, really had no intention of carrying on with a national home warranty programme. At that particular time—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I really must interrupt the hon. member. If he'll read the bill, it is entitled, "An Act to provide certain Protection for Purchasers of New Homes," and it says, "The bill establishes the Ontario new home warranties plan." There's no federal reference at all, and I think he should confine his remarks to the principle of this bill.

Mr. Drea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I will.

At that time it became apparent that the province would have to do it on its own. I brought in the background, Mr. Speaker, because there was a question about it being long overdue. First of all, there is no type of warranty that is more needed than a new home warranty in this province. It probably has been needed for 25 years. It has been the most extremely difficult type of warranty to produce.

Mr. Breithaupt: You have been in power since 1935.

Mr. Drea: The reason is it is not a combination of a single manufacturer or a distributor or a retailer. It is a product which has evolved to the point where it is subcontracted almost from beginning to end with the exception of the first piece of machinery which comes upon the scene.

The difficulty is that each and every one of the workmen in the various trade levels—

whether it is building the foundations; putting in a solid floor; laying the concrete block; or putting the drain in the cellar—is a tradesman or should be a tradesman, in his own right. Secondly, they use materials which have differing qualities, usually dependent upon price.

Until very recently, it was extremely difficult even to measure the quality of those materials in Canada because the quality of the materials was determined in another jurisdiction and the climate was not the same as ours.

There have been the gravest of difficulties, Mr. Speaker, begging your indulgence to go back a number of years. The most tumultuous labour scenes in this province were in the house building field, not in commercial construction. I think the difference is very germane to the bill we have here today because the people were not being paid by the hour; they were paid on piece rates. In other words, a tradesman had a certain amount of money to put in five rooms. It didn't matter whether it rained or snowed or the material wasn't there or it took him 25 days when theoretically it should have taken three, he still received the same price.

On the one hand, the argument has always been that the consumer received the best of the bargain compared to commercial or industrial construction where—and I suppose it's a legitimate argument of sorts for those who really like the free enterprise system—the customer had to pay for the difference.

Over the years, it has become abundantly apparent that the main inspection force—which was supposed to protect the home buyer—and which is Central Mortgage and Housing or the NHA inspector—really wasn't working on behalf of the home buyer. The inspector's prime responsibility was to ensure that the mortgage lending corporation had received enough value and it really had a viable entity in case anything went wrong. Of course, that was very important to him as a federal government employee because if there was not a viable entity and anything went wrong, the dweller would move out, the mortgage company would have difficulty selling and the Central Mortgage and Housing Corp. would have to pick up the guarantee on the mortgage. That didn't work out very well for the consumer.

Secondly, a number of municipalities entered the field and they would really start looking at the building permits, the building materials, the quality of workmanship and so forth. This broke down in several ways.

First of all, the municipalities simply did not have the staff to check the quality of the work going into a residential unit. On the other hand they were charged with the responsibilities for highrise apartments, industrial complexes, commercial work and that kind of thing. Again, in fairness to the municipalities—I don't want to pass the buck—when you're talking about looking into the actual construction of a highrise apartment which will take care of 200 to 300 families, the priorities obviously are there vis-à-vis the residential home.

Over the years a very intriguing situation has developed. More and more consumer protection has been coming along the line in every other area than the purchase of the biggest single consumer item a family enters into—that of a dwelling. It's not only the biggest single one, but the most permanent. After all, if the car is a lemon, it's a lemon for two, three, four or maybe five years. If a house is a lemon, it is a lemon for a lifetime.

Again, the bankruptcy laws of Canada—not of this province—facilitated easy entree to and easy exit from the industry. I don't think there is anyone who has purchased a home in the last 20 years who hasn't had the experience of trying to find the builder—and where do you find the builder?

If you bought the dwelling early on in the subdivision, he is still around. If you bought it rather late, he is long gone, and you try to find him. At that moment in history comes the very great dispute and here begins all the hassles.

The builder says, "Okay I will send someone." And if you shout loud enough and long enough he will. And I don't think that that really is the responsibility of the buyer in view of the price that has been paid for the house. I have always found this a very difficult area. If you didn't have every dollar right on the barrelhead on the day that you were supposed to take possession, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that you didn't take possession. But, somehow there is a double standard out there for the builder; it is always raining, or he has to work on something else, etc.

There is also the second problem. When people are buying a house it's their largest single investment, and they tend to want to save a little bit of money at the end. I know we have had some references in here today to comparison shopping, and the hint that maybe those who look for a cheaper price deserve what they get. I don't believe that at all. When a person goes out and puts a

down payment on a house, it is often clearly explained to them that if they are dealing with the builder, and not with a real estate firm, that they can save a bit of money because the commission is not involved. Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of thing that industry and big business and all kinds of people do every day of the week. And I say that is how they make their money; they eliminate the middleman.

All right, but the ordinary man goes in there and he puts down his money, and the house isn't completed. Then he finds out to his utter dismay that he really is cornered. His deposit is gone. It was not protected under the legislation of this province, because it was not done through a real estate broker. It has not gone into a trust fund; rather it has gone into the general revenues of the contracting company. And what the buyer finds out is that he virtually has to start all over again. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that it is very difficult for the ordinary young man and woman, or middle-aged man and woman, to duplicate a down payment simply because somebody has defaulted.

The worst thing is that the ABC Building Co., that has just defaulted on its obligations, has moved across the street into a neighbouring subdivision as the CBA Co., with the same guy in charge. He says, "Sorry, but the feds cracked down on me and I went into bankruptcy court. I would like to help you, but I can't. See my lawyer." Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you it is very difficult to explain to ordinary people, and I am one of them, that there—

Mr. Cunningham: Sure you are; extremely ordinary.

Mr. Drea: —isn't something terribly, terribly wrong and the time has really come to do something about it.

In terms of this legislation, we are going to meet a great number of problems—and let me go through them.

First of all, there is the problem of the builder's retention of the deposits and his forfeiture or his default of the business. If he does go out of business before the house is completed and before you take possession, then a bonding company or someone else will make sure that the house is completed. That's step No. 1.

Secondly, in terms of the builder there is the quality of work. Not being an engineer, I am somewhat limited in this field, but the word I am going to use is cosmetic. I don't want to say that the defects that are found in new houses are simply a matter of putting

a sander across some floor or adding a bit of paint. What I want to say is that these are not substantial faults—they are not enough to cave the house in or to have it condemned.

One of the gravest of difficulties for new home buyers is when they walk into the dwelling and they find out it is not exactly their dream palace. There are cracks here, there are cracks there, the windows won't open. Okay, all of these are relatively minor things, but why, Mr. Speaker, do we see so many items in the press and view so many items on TV about the misfortunes of new home owners? All of these things are relatively little items. It is the simple fact that people have been burned for so long and for so often in this province that if the slightest thing is the matter with a new dwelling they immediately cry "wolf," because in their previous experience, or that of their friends, this is the only way they received any action.

[4:15]

Under this legislation that type of thing will be remedied. If the builder departs and cannot be found, it will still be remedied. No longer will there be the hue and cry or the great apprehension that you have saved your money, you have finally bought it, you have done this and now you have to put a lasso around the builder's neck to make sure he will be there to fix even something as small as a window that doesn't open. That's taken care of.

This hasn't been the case too often in this province, although it has been elsewhere, but it is still there. What happens if something inadvertently was put in wrong? What happens if the I-beam was put in wrong or the drains were put in upside down or something turns up three or four years later which really means an extensive renovation job that is beyond the means of the people who are in the house? They are left with the position of having a home that is going to be condemned by the municipality as unfit to live in, and rightfully so. On the other hand, the cost of bringing it up to a standard of safety is beyond their ability, and once again the builder is long gone or any type of warranty outside of legislation is gone. Again, in this bill that is going to be taken care of.

On the other side, no longer are the two or three per cent of the building industry, the very ones who had such ease in getting NHA approvals and that kind of thing, going to be able to scoff at the public; no longer are they going to be able to go into convenient bank-

ruptcies; no longer are they going to be able to say they'd love to fix it but they don't work in that municipality any more, to say, "See us next year." On each and every one of the dwellings they are going to build in the future, they are going to have to go out and purchase warranty and insurance protection. If their track record is bad, then I suggest they simply will not get that kind of protection, which means that they will not be able to build a dwelling in Ontario.

I hate to think of anybody going out of business, but I can think of no people who deserve it more. I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, to the first one of them who complains to the Legislature I would just love to go out and say "Buddy, you deserve it. Here is what you really did over the years. Let me give out your home address so they can all knock on your door and give you a little bit of congratulation." That's what this bill is going to do.

I realize there is some concern that the government should be more actively involved in the actual pursuit of these people. I suggest, notwithstanding all of the remarks that I have made, that the house-building industry in this province is something that we can in general be very proud of. Better than 95 per cent, and maybe even as high as 98 per cent or 99 per cent of the builders, are people, Mr. Speaker, that you and I would like to do business with. A house is not only the biggest consumer investment, it is also a business investment. It requires a lot of skills and a lot of trades and a lot of work and a lot of co-ordination. You have weather problems, the whole bit.

By and large, they have more than met the standards that the public expect and over the years there has been no more long-suffering body, because they have received black eye after black eye from the people who have left town or the people who have conveniently gone bankrupt or the people who scooped the deposit or from people who used the cheapest of materials and then would do nothing about it. This has happened to everyone. They have received a tremendous amount of adverse publicity.

Notwithstanding that, in the two years that I have worked in this field, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you there is no more responsible industry than the building industry. I say that on two grounds: They recognize all of the problems, because they are out there; they recognize all of the bandits, because those bandits and their reputation have been inflicted upon them.

This legislation meets the needs of the house-buying public. There was a suggestion that perhaps they shouldn't have to pay. Well, to pay less than \$100 on a \$60,000 house for the type of protection you're getting, I find it impossible to believe you could duplicate it anywhere.

There is the question as to whether an industry can really compel the type of inspection that is needed to keep the insurance and warranty system viable in terms of the cost to the consumer. It seems to me that we don't need any more inspections; we just need some co-ordination of inspections. We have all kinds of inspectors out there now. We have the mortgage company inspector if it's a conventional mortgage; we have the NHA inspector if it is a CMHC-approved mortgage; we have the local building inspector—we have a tremendous number of inspectors out there.

What is really needed for the first time is not to protect the mortgage holder, be it a trust company, a bank or the federal government; not to protect the municipality; not merely to protect the workmen in terms of the safety operation—but a concerted type of inspection that will take into account not only all of those factors, which are very necessary, but also the final product.

There is no other province that has brought in legislation in this field. It is quite true, there is a voluntary plan working elsewhere, but this is the first province that has brought it in. On the other hand, the consumer is being protected; on the other hand, the disreputable builder, the unfit builder, the one who really shouldn't be there, is going to be gone. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that if this was being done by private industry, it would be unacceptable because who would the consumer or the builder appeal to if they both felt they had not been dealt with fairly? In this legislation they can appeal to an impartial body; they can appeal to a body than can handle the case expeditiously and at the lowest possible cost, with the least amount of bureaucracy.

It seems to me that in this bill we have achieved what the consumers want; we have achieved what the reputable building industry wants; we have achieved, in effect, what the people who work on these houses—the tradesmen—want. We have achieved a fair deal at the lowest possible cost, with the least amount of bureaucratic interference and with the most benefits to all concerned.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I know of no single matter that has caused me more aggravation than the shoddy workmanship of a number of builders in the Province of Ontario. I doubt if I've spoken more frequently to the Ministry of Housing and the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) about any other matter than matters of inadequate buildings, inadequate builders and substandard housing.

I'm not happy with this bill, because I don't consider it to be adequate. I have inspected houses in the mornings, in the afternoons, in the dead of night, in pouring rain, in snow up to my thighs at least—in every conceivable kind of situation. I've trudged through mud up over the tops of my boots; I've gone in the company of the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes); I've gone in the company of other people, inspectors from Ontario Housing Corp. in particular, and I've looked at what I consider to be the single largest problem confronting purchasers of anything in the Province of Ontario. It's more acceptable to be bilked, if that's the right word, by someone if you're purchasing an iron or a toaster. But when you're spending perhaps all of your life's savings, maybe investing \$150,000 over a lifetime in the purchase of a home, you expect it will be built to a reasonable standard.

This bill leaves far too much to the industry itself and doesn't spell out nearly clearly enough the way in which the government is going to protect the people over whom it has jurisdiction. The key to any home warranty programme is the inspection. The one single area where this bill is deficient is in the area of the description of and the acceptance of the responsibility by this government for an adequate inspection programme. I'm not yet clear whether the Minister of Housing intends to carry on with his proposal to eliminate inspection from the home ownership programme. I suspect he must be going to do it. He hasn't said any more about it. Even if he eliminated it, the inspection programme itself has taken so long to develop and to get a sufficient number of inspectors into the field that it hasn't been able to provide the kind of in-depth and adequate inspection necessary to ensure the standard of quality of the product.

I think we've got to begin by pointing this out. I say to my colleague from Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham) that the majority of people are not buying homes already built where they can walk in and can take a look at the product to see whether

or not it's adequate to their means. What's happening for a great number of people, is that they're buying a lot and they're looking at a plan and they're determining whether or not that plan reasonably well suits their living standard and their capacity to pay. They don't have either the expertise or the time then to follow through every single step of the way to ensure that the basement is dug out to the depth that it's supposed to be dug out to, that the footings are put in to the proper depths and levels, that the walls of the basement are adequately and properly constructed, that the sub-flooring levels are done in a way that will stand up over the years, that the insulation is put in as it is intended to be put in, and that the finish, the roof and the remainder, are done in accordance with the plan that they chose. They're not able to do that because, in order to be able to buy the house in the first place, they have to be out working every day while the work's being done, and they can't go and get anyone else to do it for them.

First of all, the mortgage company's interest is not as much in determining whether or not the home's being built to a reasonable standard and making sure that it's being built in a way that will ensure its longevity. What the mortgage company's interested in is making sure that they don't advance their payments in advance of the house being completed to a particular level of completion. By that, I mean that they make their advance initially and then, when it gets to the sub-floor level, they may get another advance and when it gets to the roof, they may get another advance. They hold back so much until the home is completed.

We wouldn't need a warranty if the home building group, the people who are in the business of providing homes, which includes HUDAC, had had among their numbers people who were vitally concerned about ensuring the quality. Unless there are inspectors that are completely free from any attachment of any kind to the home-building business, then those inspectors will be under considerable pressure. We're going to have so many more of them in order to ensure that the product is built adequately and to the standards that we've set up.

As I look back over the last period of time, the almost nine years since I became involved in this, I don't think I'm unnecessarily disillusioned. But even some of the biggest builders, the ones building the largest numbers of homes in the Province of Ontario, cut every single corner that they can.

[4:30]

The builders themselves, even those people who are the corporate builder, because of the nature of their work are not on site on many of the locations where the building is taking place. They got out and they hire subtrades. And on the subtrades, they don't care—whether they are in fact carpenters, plumbers, bricklayers or whatever—they don't care, just as long as they'll do it cheaply enough and as long as it will last long enough so that nobody will notice there are defects in the home in the early going, in that period when things are needing to be done.

Let me tell you, you have an inspection programme, under home ownership for example, and I went not very long ago to look at some HOME homes. I discovered that in spite of the inspection programme that is already in effect, which is infinitely better than the one that was there three years ago, the workmanship is disgusting. I looked at a situation where they had boxed in the water pipes and they put the insulation on the interior wall rather than the exterior wall and the pipes froze. Of course the people then had to dig a hole through the wall to get at the pipes, only to discover that where there was insulation, which wasn't in every case, the insulation was on the inside wall rather than the outside wall protecting the pipes.

That's just an indication of inferior workmanship. Unless you have inspectors on the site all of the time watching every single phase of the operation, you are going to find that you are going to get exactly the same kind of inferior workmanship, even under this. They are going to take the chance that the people involved won't find out that there is something wrong with the house; that's the basis on which they have been operating for years.

They use green wood; they don't set it up plumb nor square; they don't care whether the basements leak—people are just told, well that's a hazard of owning a home these days, basements leak; I mean what are you going to do about it?

That's the reaction that you get. They don't have any sense of responsibility with regard to it. They don't care, and you can't tell me this programme is going to make it any different. This programme is not going to make it any more difficult; there is already a one-year guarantee on most of the homes, but you try and get them to do the repair work. It is almost impossible.

The developer turns around and says that it is not his responsibility, it is the responsibility of the builder. You go to the builder, the builder says wait a minute, it is the responsibility of the subtrade. You go to the subtrade; the subtrade can't be found, it doesn't exist as a subtrade; it's a group of people who got together to build something.

I am, quite frankly, just not at all persuaded that to now hand this whole thing over to the building industry and say to them: "Okay, you go ahead and police yourselves," is going to work. It is not going to work.

It isn't going to work because they don't have any sense of responsibility to the purchaser, and there is no one who is going to be standing over them saying "produce or else." There is nothing to guarantee that they will even be a part of this programme, there is nothing to guarantee it. That's why I say to you that this isn't the way to do it; this isn't the way to do it, you should never have adopted this model.

If we are going to have a warranty programme, you establish the warranty for whatever period of time—five or 10 years, I don't care, five years will be fine—establish the warranty, but then you must have a totally independent investigation take place as far as inspection is concerned. That must be done by this government or its agency. It must be done through the Ontario Housing Corp. or the Ministry of Housing in order to guarantee that the people who are involved will in fact not be subjected unnecessarily to pressures with regard to their jobs, because the very people who make up the umbrella organization are the very people who are building the homes. I don't see how anyone can be independent if that is the way it is going to be, and that's the way you set it up.

I think that you are going to have to rethink the thing. You may pass it now, but I am going to tell you that you are going to have to rethink the method of inspection to determine that those people who are in the field are sufficient in number and are freed from all pressure so that when they do make a decision—and let me tell you about some of the decisions—when they do make a decision that decision is reinforced by their impartiality and the weight of the ministry. Even now, with the inspectors that were in place, there is no doubt in my mind at all, though I have difficulty putting my finger on the culprit, that many of the builders exercised a great deal of pressure in trying to avoid the direction of the inspectors in many

of the home ownership programmes. Whether they were successful or not is left up to everyone to decide for themselves. I think I know—and I put it that way to you—that there was a great deal of pressure put on those people in charge of the inspection programme under the home ownership programme to have the very legitimate complaints and directions of many of the inspectors in the field avoided.

The reason I think I know it is that I came into contact with so many of them over the last number of years. They showed me the way in which they inspected, how they wrote out the defects, how they sent them in to have them fixed and how, subsequent to their inspection, someone else was sent out to do yet another inspection and it was found during that inspection that on occasion what had been previously noted as being defective no longer was to be noted as being defective.

That worries me, and if it worries me in regard to a government agency, it worries me a damn sight more if the very people who stand to gain are going to be the ones who are going to have control over the inspectors, because it doesn't leave any recourse to the individual purchaser. The individual purchaser doesn't know whether the house is built to standard or not. They don't know whether the house is built to standard and they have no way of knowing and no way of finding out, unless they can get the actual inspection reports right from the moment that that hole was first dug in the ground to the time when the final inspection is made. Who knows what is behind the interior walls, unless you tear them out and take a look at it? The only time you ever find out is long after the problem has become apparent. Then the answer given by the builder is he could fix this.

The example I give you is that I went in and looked at ceilings that had not been properly attached to the beams. I'm talking about Masonite, Gyproc ceilings that hadn't been properly attached to the beams, where you could stand on a chair and push them up a minimum of four inches. When it was brought to the builder's attention that this had happened, that these ceilings were not done properly, the builder then went to the individual purchaser and said he could fix this. He said: "It's going to be a really messy job and you will have to move out for a few days. And it may not turn out to be really good after we have done it because we will then have to patch."

When the people said: "If you are going to have to do this, surely you are going to have to re-do the whole ceiling," they said: "Oh, no, all we've got to do is just fix the part where the problem is and we'll patch it up for you. You'll have to paint it over and it may turn out okay." In other words, what they were trying to do was to dissuade those people from following through with what obviously was required to be done.

A great number of young people moving in for the first time are not able to make those kinds of decisions. They would like to get it fixed but they don't want the mess. They don't want to run the risk of further damage to their home, and so nothing happens. There is the builder who builds a wall that is evidently out of plumb by three or four inches, if you look at it and measure it. But when you sit down and ask him what he is going to do with it, the alternative over and against the problem you've got is far worse. The problem you will have after he is finished with it is far greater than the problem you have to begin with, and so people tend to opt for not getting it done through no fault of theirs.

What I'm saying to the minister is that one can't change the nature of the industry. The industry is slipshod. The industry is totally inadequate. The sense of many of the builders—and they're in the HOME programme as much as out in private development—is "I will do as little as I possibly can. I will not respond to the legitimate requests of the people who require me to fix things. I will attempt over the course of time to allow them to get fed up and quit."

Mr. Kerrio: Not all of them.

Mr. Drea: I said the majority. If the hon. member doesn't believe it's the majority, let him come with me and take a look. The majority of them are exactly in that position; they get the same subtrades to do the work and the workmanship is terrible. Just by passing this bill isn't going to make it any better. Unless the government is prepared to follow up with in-depth continuous inspection, then this programme simply will be an added cost which will yield no benefit. I want to suggest that it should go further.

We should not only inspect individual homes to determine whether the house is built to standard or whether the finish is appropriate and adequate, but we must inspect the overall project. I have had numerous instances where, in spite of the providing of what I believe is called a land survey, showing the way in which water flows and whatever

else it does—I can't remember the exact term for it—there are far too many builders who pay absolutely no attention to it after it is finished, and we end up with tremendous flooding problems for people. That should be part of the overall inspection.

There is no point in building a house reasonably well, only to have the water lapping up against the back and running in the windows. That's exactly what's happening in a number of areas. Mr. Speaker, I can show you areas where, within 15 ft of the back wall of a house that was built under the HOME programme, there is a 10-ft rise in the lay of the land; the water, out of necessity, must flow down there and in the back window. I can show you houses where the basement windows are below grade level and the water simply pours right in. When you go to Ontario Housing and say, "Surely someone is responsible for this," you can never find out who it is.

I can take you out right now, Mr. Speaker, and show you subdivisions built under the home ownership programme where the people can't even find the steel pegs that mark their land. They can't find them, even though by law they must be there. When they went to Ontario Housing Corp. and said, "We want to build fences now, and we'd like to be able to locate the corner of our land," they were told, "Go get a land surveyor. That's not our responsibility." But that is an overall responsibility.

If the right to develop a subdivision is to be granted to a developer, the developer surely must comply with everything that plan of subdivision contains, including the overall drainage pattern and the actual locations of the properties being sold to determine that there is no overlapping, as well as the workmanship of the home. That's the kind of things a home warranty programme must have within it, otherwise it will fail. It's doomed to fail; it can't do anything else but fail.

I suggest to the minister that if this is what the government had in mind back in 1969 and 1970 when I was talking about a home warranty programme, then I think they have misled me. I thought they honestly intended, by way of legislation, to take care of many of the shoddy operations that were going on across this province and that they were going to put the full weight of the government behind it. I thought they were going to make sure that people who make this major investment, many of whom undertake it without having the benefit of all of the expertise they might like to have in

determining whether the property and the home are done properly, were finally going to be protected by some form of legislation in this province.

I'm going to tell the minister something: What he has done is he has turned this over to the very people who have been bilking them and taking advantage of them all along. He's turned around and given the right to inspect themselves to those people who weren't providing adequate workmanship and adequate care; he has given them the right to decide whether or not they are living up to whatever standards it is that we might decide are adequate. The recourse for most people through litigation is far too costly; for great numbers of people these days, by the time they move into a house they haven't got enough money left, even if they find they have to go to court, in order to enforce the orders that were given with regard to the property itself. And by far the majority of people haven't got a sufficient amount of money left for anything after they have gone through the process of scrimping together and saving the down payment and making the payments for homes that are tremendously overpriced in the first place. By the time they get around to doing that, they couldn't afford to go to court even if they wanted to. I think that's where much of the problem lies.

[4:45]

I just don't like this programme at all. I don't think it is going to work. I don't think it can work. I don't think it has even a hope of working. I don't think it is going to work simply because it was started at the wrong end. If we can't even convince the minister to provide adequate inspection for the homes over which he has jurisdiction, I don't know how in the heaven's name it is expected to be able to convince the industry to take on that responsibility. I don't know how the minister can expect to be able to do that.

I could read you any number of complaints, Mr. Speaker, but I'm not going to do it. I could read you pages and pages of complaints from people—all of them valid. Many of them are complaints about structural defects with regard to work by builders in the Province of Ontario, and the way in which they were treated by the builders in the Province of Ontario.

If, as the member for Niagara Falls said, we're only talking about a small number of builders, then that would have to be shown to me. They may be small in number in terms of the total number of builders, but they are

large in terms of the total number of units being built—many of them build in vast quantities.

Mr. Kerrio: It may be the various areas. It might change from place to place.

Mr. Deans: Yes, I know that; I deal with many of the builders in the Niagara Peninsula, and I've had no end of difficulty with them. As I read through this legislation, I don't frankly see where this is going to benefit any of those home buyers one whit.

Let me just say one other thing to you about it. We've had four or five years of deteriorating workmanship. It's been going on over the last four or five years—maybe even longer. I can tell you that when I purchased the home that I live in, while I wasn't entirely satisfied with every aspect of it, I was reasonably well satisfied that it was structurally sound and that things were done according to the best business practices of that day. Since that time, I've watched as the home industry has deteriorated in terms of its obligation to its clients.

This government has procrastinated for the last three years in regard to the introduction of this bill, inadequate though it may be. There has to be some way to ensure that many of the people who have purchased homes in that period are given some protection against what is without question workmanship and material quality that is far below standard.

I think that if the government of Ontario is going to use the building code, it should take a look at some aspects of that building code to see whether or not they are really satisfactory.

Some of the aspects of the building code are quite unsatisfactory. For example, there is a trend towards pressed plywood for flooring. It is not standing up because of the amount of resilience or give, I suppose, in the wood itself. The actual floors are cracking and tiles are lifting. There are so many things that to begin to deal with them all here would take more time than the House probably has.

Mr. B. Newman: Are you going to vote against it?

Mr. Deans: I am just not satisfied with what has been done. In fact, I am quite dissatisfied. I am very disappointed, in fact, in what has been done in this bill. I expected better, and I think that at some point we will change the whole thing.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I had not originally intended to speak to this bill, but

after what has just been said I feel I must rise.

It has certainly not been my experience with the house building industry in the community from which I come that the situation described in the remarks that were just made were by any means the norm, or even in the majority. I believe we all know, Mr. Speaker, very clearly, that there are some cases—in fact there may be too many cases—of poor workmanship in this province as far as home building is concerned. If there were not, we wouldn't have this bill at all. If there were not the house building industry itself would not have seen necessary to bring in its own warranty programme, regardless of what we think about that particular programme.

There are problems, we know that; but to make the kind of all-encompassing, condemnatory kinds of statements we just heard for the last little while, I would say is irresponsible, totally irresponsible, to many honest, decent, home builders in this province. And more than that, Mr. Speaker, not just the home builders themselves, what about the men who do the job?

Mr. Kerrio: The workmen.

Mr. Sweeney: What about the carpenters and the electricians and the plumbers and the plasterers, who have a pride in their work, a pride in their workmanship. What we have just heard has taken every one of those people, or even to use the member's own terminology, the majority of those people—

Mr. Deans: And I stand by it.

Mr. Sweeney: —the majority of those people and said to them what you have done is no good, what you have done is wrong, what you have done has taken the people of this province and cheated them.

Mr. Deans: It has.

Mr. Sweeney: I don't agree with that. I do agree that there are some things that need to be done. That's why this bill, or a bill very much like it, needs to be brought before this Legislature.

I do agree, Mr. Speaker, with one comment that was made, that the level of inspection is an important matter; but once again, Mr. Speaker, if we follow the suggestion that has just been made, we are going to have to have a single inspector in every single building during all the hours when it is under construction.

Mr. Deans: Doesn't that say something about the quality of the workmanship?

Mr. Sweeney: At all times; that's physically impossible.

Not only that, we are going to have to have an inspector who is equally qualified in all the building trades present at all times when any construction is going on. It is a physical and financial impossibility. Something better than what is being done right now needs to be done, but let's not try to build into this legislation, or into any such legislation, something that simply can't be done. Let's try to be reasonable and practical. Let's try to come part way. That's all that we are asking for.

Mr. Bullbrook: Well said.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Do any other hon. members wish to speak to this bill before the minister replies? The member for Windsor-Walkerville.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make a few comments concerning Bill 94, especially from the fact that we have had problems in the past in my own community with some builders but not the majority of the builders by any stretch of the imagination.

I can recall years ago articles in the press concerning the construction at Elizabeth Gardens, an Ontario Housing project, and bringing it to the attention of the ministry. I can recall the press going into an in-depth study concerning the structural deficiencies in that project; but, Mr. Speaker, I would assume that unless inspection is by far more stringent than what is carried on today, we are always going to be confronted with some type of workmanship that may not be up to our expectations; but not in the majority of the cases, Mr. Speaker.

For example, many of the Italians in my own community build their own homes, and when they have built their own home they put it on the market after a while. Surely you wouldn't condemn that individual's workmanship by any stretch of the imagination; in fact the many that I have seen that are fairly close to where I live are examples of expert and skilled craftsmanship, on the part of not only the carpenter, but the bricklayer and every other skilled construction trade that you could possibly mention.

There are problems and if there were not problems in the construction industry I doubt very much that this legislation would have been introduced. I know the communities throughout the province have been asking for some type of warranty pro-

gramme so that at least the purchaser would know that on the purchase of the home he is getting what he had expected and what he is paying for.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier my own community has passed resolution after resolution suggesting that there be legislation that would protect the purchaser of a new home. This legislation before us is not perfect; we know it isn't perfect, but at least it is a step in the right direction. We hope that the member who spoke just prior to myself will actually follow up on his comments by voting against the bill then, if he thinks it is so poor a bill.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Do any other hon. members wish to address themselves to this bill? The hon. member for Riverdale.

Mr. Renwick: I would like to fill up the time until 5 o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Drea: Why?

Mr. Renwick: Because the minister seems so anxious to get on.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: It is okay.

Mr. Breithaupt: Let's call it 5 o'clock then.

Mr. Renwick: We always have this problem about this kind of a bill: Is it worthwhile taking the first step with an inadequate bill or should we take the first step and accept it in the hope and anticipation that the government will do something about it in the future? In this particular situation, we believe we have to have something. We have waited so long that we have to have something. It distinguishes perhaps the occasions when we have opposed from other occasions.

We anticipate in the committee of the whole House that we will do our very best to amend the bill to conform with what we expect and want as a protection for first-time buyers of newly constructed homes, because one of these days the government is going to have to extend the principle of this bill to other homes.

Let me comment about my experience in the assembly. Whenever we come in touch with the real estate business in any of its areas, we are never ever able to make applicable to that industry in all its branches the standards of behaviour at acceptable costs which we are finally beginning to get in other branches of the business community. This is the single most powerful vested interest group in the province with perhaps one exception which might want to vie with the real estate industry for a powerful vested

interest, and that's the insurance industry. Between the two of them, they are the top ones. As soon as we try to move to do anything about either of those industries, we find that the government's only response is late, is generally done in conjunction with the very industry for which it is trying to raise the standards and the result is the kind of a bill which puts a party such as ours into immense quandaries about what to do with the bill on second reading.

We are going to support the bill on second reading, but we are going to amend it and we intend to spend some time in committee—and I think the minister should know this—trying as very best we can to repair the inadequacies of the bill. If I have to stack up the experience of my colleague, the member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans), and the conclusions which he draws from that experience of his over a number of years, commented upon in caucus, commented upon out in the public, commented upon time after time in this assembly—and the conclusion he draws with the conclusion any other member of the assembly can draw from his individual experience—I will accept the conclusion of the member for Wentworth every time. I have been too long around to find every time that we introduce a bill dealing with standards of behaviour, and adequacy of performance at reasonable cost in the business community, we are always told by the Conservative government, echoed by the Liberal Party, that all we are dealing with are a few scoundrels in each of the industries.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order please, does the hon. member have further remarks to make?

Mr. Renwick: Yes, Mr. Speaker, but perhaps I can make them at some later time.

Mr. Renwick moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

[5:00]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR:

SIMCOE DAY ACT

Mr. G. E. Smith moved second reading of Bill 73, An Act respecting Simcoe Day.

Mr. G. E. Smith: Each year we celebrate in this province the first Monday in August as a public holiday. We've always called this public holiday Civic Day or Civic Holiday. The name, if it means anything at all, conjures up visions of a day when civil servants

don't report for work. Most people, I dare say, don't have a name for it at all and refer to it simply as the August holiday or the first long holiday weekend in August.

This bill proposes that henceforward that day will be celebrated and named as Simcoe Day. Its establishment will recognize the contribution of Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe as the earliest architect of what is now the Province of Ontario. By establishing this day, we are not only honouring Col. Simcoe but all of those early Loyalists who built the foundation upon which this solid edifice is constructed. His and their accomplishments deserve our recognition and acknowledgement.

It has been said that if a nation doesn't value its freedom, it will very likely lose that freedom. Any nation that remains conscious of its heritage and is aware of its history is less likely to fall prey to that proposition. For this reason, I would like to take a few moments to review some of the highlights of Col. Simcoe's career and make some observations on his contribution and those of his contemporaries in our early history.

In 1790, the British Parliament enacted a bill dividing the former Province of Quebec into Upper and Lower Canada. A year later, in 1791, Col. John Graves Simcoe became the first Governor of Upper Canada. Prior to that time, Col. Simcoe had been a line officer during the American Revolution, after which he had returned to England. In 1790, he was elected a member of the British Parliament where he took part in the debate on the bill that created what is now Ontario. During that period, no doubt, he acquired an intimate knowledge of what had been intended by that bill and was, therefore, eminently qualified to be selected as its first governor. The bill provided for an executive council to be appointed to advise the new Lieutenant Governor and for an elected assembly.

Col. Simcoe arrived in Canada to take up his new duties in 1792 and was sworn in at a ceremony in Kingston on July 8 of that year. The newly appointed executive council met immediately in the city of Kingston. The first meeting of the legislative assembly took place in the fall of that same year. In order to gain some insight into the problems which faced these men at that time, it would be helpful to consider briefly the physical reality of the province.

While a few Loyalists had begun to arrive and settle in what was after the war to become British North America in the late 1760s and early 1770s, the main influx of

United Empire Loyalists arrived in the period shortly following the American Revolution. Many of these Loyalists settled in that portion of the province along the north shore of the St. Lawrence River. By 1790, except for small settlements at Niagara and Detroit, there was very little west of what is now Kingston except bush. There was no Toronto, no Hamilton, no London or no Cobourg. The only travel which occurred throughout most of the area resulted from the carrying on of the fur trade, which by that time had entered a serious decline.

Col. Simcoe's mandate, as he saw it and no doubt as his superiors in Westminster saw it, was to establish a British colonial government along what had by then become fairly traditional lines. The first step was to organize the civil government of the colony to accommodate the growth he expected to encourage through emigration from the United States. Hence the establishment of the executive council and the elected legislative assembly. In order to facilitate these various objectives, he reorganized the old districts of Upper Canada into 19 counties, many of which exist to this day, albeit in some cases with their boundaries somewhat changed. Because it was far more central than the existing population centres, he selected what was then called Newark and is now Niagara-on-the-Lake as the first capital. He met there, as I indicated earlier, with the first Legislature, in September of 1792.

One should not lose sight of the fact that one of the principal preoccupations of the people of this new land was a fear of its neighbours to the south. Defence of the territorial integrity of the new province was therefore of the utmost importance. The new governor undertook an ambitious programme of road building with its main purpose consideration for defence. In this regard, he blazed a road from the head of Lake Ontario to the Thames River where he founded the city of London. These roads, built internally, were thus protected from attack.

The new governor was an energetic and inexhaustible traveller. He toured the south-western portion of the province, as far as Detroit, and visited Lake Huron by way of Lake Simcoe, which he named in honour of his father.

The existing tensions between the United States and British North America convinced him that he would be prudent to move his capital to a location less vulnerable to attack and he moved the new government's operations to that centre. That these apprehensions were justified is all too clear in view of the

subsequent events in the war of 1812 to 1814.

On the legislative side, those early sessions of our Legislature enacted laws to legalize marriages, which had hitherto been performed under conditions which did not permit regular solemnization. Determined to eliminate the practice of slavery, the new government under Simcoe's urging took the first vital and important steps to do away with this obnoxious practice. Perhaps the most important of all Governor Simcoe's programmes was the establishment of a comprehensive judicial system for a province which had up to then made do with a few magistrates with no previous instruction in the law or its application.

It is a measure of John Graves Simcoe's ability and competence that he guided the colony safely through its critical early years, surrounded as it was by dangers on every hand. He established a solid political and social framework from which our present society has evolved.

In most countries of this world historical figures are remembered and revered for their contributions to the nation by reserving a public holiday in their name. We in Ontario have no such tradition and in my view it is time that we did.

During the course of the debate on a bill similar to the one at hand, approximately four years ago, the hon. member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) proclaimed the virtues of another one of our early citizens and suggested that if a holiday was to be named for anyone we might better consider the contribution of the Hon. Richard Cartwright. May I say at this point that I too am aware of the contribution that Richard Cartwright made. The hon. member advised this House that in 1939 he had prepared a thesis for his master's degree in history on the life and times of Mr. Cartwright, and suggested that I would find it of interest to read it; as I say I found it interesting and did follow up that suggestion and obtained a copy of the thesis from the library. The member is quite correct. I did find his essay most interesting and after reading what he had to say I am happy to say to this House that I am more impressed than ever with the accomplishments of Col. Simcoe.

Subsequent to the second reading of the bill, Mr. Speaker, after I had read the thesis by the hon. member, I interviewed 100 grade 7 and grade 8 students during the fall and early winter months of 1972-1973. I asked the students these two questions. Who was John Graves Simcoe? And the second ques-

tion: Who was Richard Cartwright? Of the 100 students interviewed, 88 identified John Graves Simcoe as either the first Lieutenant Governor of Ontario or the first premier, or the first political head of the government of our province; 13 identified him as the leader of a military regiment and a road builder; and nine did not know who he was. As to the second question, who was Richard Cartwright; 37 did not know and the other 63 identified him as the star of the TV show *Bonanza*.

Mr. Breithaupt: That's fame of a sort.

Mr. G. E. Smith: I also asked 73 students and adults alike a question on the meaning of the Civic Holiday, why it was so named and by whom? Not one person could really give me an adequate answer. They vaguely responded that it was a municipal holiday, but that it did not have any real significance to them. This is all the more reason why we should take the necessary action today to change the name from Civic Holiday to Simcoe Day.

I am happy to advise you, Mr. Speaker, that many municipalities, organizations, associations and individuals, as well as the media, are again supporting this bill. I have received letters or resolutions of support from a number of people in municipalities and I am going to read them into the record. I might say that I received around eight more letters today from municipalities and interested people. The letters and resolutions have come from the Simcoe County Historical Association, the borough of East York, the township of East Gwillimbury, the regional municipality of Peel, the city of Cambridge, the town of Oakville, the township of Sandwich West, the township of Mersea, the village of Frankford, the town of Ajax, the township of West Lincoln, the town of Ancaster, the city of Nanticoke, the regional municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk, the town of Gore Bay, the Niagara Historical Society, the town of Tillsonburg, town of Trenton, town of Grimsby, town of Simcoe, township of Gosfield North, city of Chatham, the township of Goulbourn, the town of Goderich, the city of Waterloo and the Glengarry Historical Society.

In addition, many of the members of the Legislature from both sides of the House have written to me indicating their support of the bill. I am advised that some of the municipalities which previously supported me in 1972 have been unable to take action because second reading of this bill was called rather hastily and the municipalities

have not been able to deal with it officially. However, for the record I would like to inform you and the members of this House, Mr. Speaker, that in 1972 I received the support of many municipalities and organizations and this support was not withdrawn.

Again, I would like to mention some of the names very quickly. The city of Barrie, the town of Collingwood, the city of Cornwall, the town of Dunnville, the town of Midland, the town of Milton, city of Mississauga, city of Orillia, city of Oshawa, the town of Port Credit, the town of Richmond Hill, the town of Thorold, and the city of Toronto. Incidentally, the city of Toronto is one of the few municipalities that really take advantage of the permissive legislation under the Municipal Act allowing them to proclaim that day as Simcoe Day. I understand this year that they are planning even greater celebrations than they have previously.

Other municipalities that gave support are the town of Whitby, the town of Dundas, the city of Brantford, the town of Renfrew, the county of Simcoe, the borough of North York, the regional municipality of Niagara, the city of Hamilton—and, incidentally, they are observing it and proclaiming it for the first time this year as Simcoe Day—the town of Brampton, Port Colborne, Smiths Falls, Stratford, Penetanguishene, Etobicoke, the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada, the Toronto branch and St. Catharines and district, Trent University, the Niagara Historical Society, the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, the Ancaster Township Historical Society, the St. Catharines and Lincoln Historical Society, Burlington Historical Society, the Head of the Lakes Historical Society, the Kingston Historical Society, Lundy's Lane Historical Society, London and Middlesex Historical Society, the Oshawa and District Historical Society, the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Toronto and the Brant Historical Society.

In addition, Norfolk county, Welland county, Peterborough county, Halton county, Peel county and the Association of Counties and Regions of Ontario as well as the Orillia Council of Women and other individual people have taken time to write me in support.

The matter was discussed by the Provincial Municipal Liaison Committee last year. However, they could not support it as they did not have the unanimous support of the municipalities. I would like to say that perhaps the strongest objection last year with the PMLC came from the then mayor of

Kingston, George N. Speal, who wrote the committee saying:

I want to express my objection to the proposal to change the statutory holiday from Civic Holiday to Simcoe Day. John Graves Simcoe is commemorated by a statue at Queen's Park and by the name Lake Simcoe. Except for Christmas, our holidays normally celebrate an event rather than a person. If we start naming holidays after persons, then why not Macdonald Day, Baldwin Day and Durham Day, which would be more significant?

I hope you will give consideration to these remarks.

[5:15]

I might say right here that it is time that we do start naming our holidays after people who have some historic significance to either our Dominion of Canada or our provinces. I would suggest that there certainly should be a Macdonald Day, and this should be done at the federal level; I would hope that the federal government would enact a public holiday in recognition of Sir John A. Macdonald.

It is interesting to note that the Association of Counties and Regions of Ontario unanimously supported the change to Simcoe Day and so advised the hon. Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) by letter on July 3, 1975. Mr. Speaker, I am sure you will understand, from the support that I have received from the municipalities I have just mentioned, that there is general support for this bill by many municipalities. Needless to say, I have the support of the John Graves Simcoe Memorial Foundation, and I would like to quote again from a letter that I have received from Mr. Norman Long, the chairman of the foundation. He says:

It is our opinion that such provincial recognition is more than deserved in commemoration of a man who embodied the highest principle of public service, whose health suffered badly as a result of his unceasing activities in a fledgling colony and in whose debt we must always remain.

I also received support in 1972 from Mr. Bruce West, and I would like to quote one paragraph from his comments, which were published in the *Globe and Mail*. Mr. West said:

After all, the term "Civic Holiday" doesn't really mean much to me. Simcoe Day would, because it would help to bring a better focus on our past, and any move

of that kind is surely a step in the right direction. It is not that Col. John Graves Simcoe performed any superhuman deeds to get what is now Ontario under way. If we try to glamorize him in that manner, we may defeat what would be the main purpose of Simcoe Day—to draw attention to the manner in which the sturdy pioneers of those early times literally carved what was to become Canada's most prosperous province out of the virgin forest. It might not do us any harm to look back on these times at least once a year, and Simcoe Day might be just as good an anniversary as any upon which to do so.

The *Barr's Examiner*, in an editorial within the past two weeks, said:

If for no other reason, the Ontario Legislature should proclaim the annual Civic Holiday Monday in August as Simcoe Day because the name has more meaning. John Graves Simcoe was the first Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and was one of the most able administrators of his era. Simcoe was responsible for the first Parliament held in Upper Canada.

They go on to say some other things, including this:

In the United States, school children are taught the oath of allegiance, respect for the flag and the history of great men. Canada has men equally as important to this nation as a Washington or a Lincoln, yet little is known about them. Perhaps a civic holiday is a day worth mentioning.

In other countries, as has been mentioned, historical figures are remembered for the contributions to their nation by naming a public holiday for them, Washington, Lincoln, Columbus and several others in the United States are examples. In Ontario alone, we have historical figures just as outstanding. We had Maj.-Gen. Isaac Brock, William Lyon Mackenzie, Rev. John Strachan, to mention only a few who would be known and recognized for their sacrifices and contributions to the establishment of our system of law and order, freedom and justice.

It has been said that a nation that does not value its freedom will lose that freedom, and Canadians who carelessly take their great heritage for granted should give consideration to this position today.

For these reasons, I advocate changing the name of one of our holidays, the first Monday in August, from Civic Holiday—which is really a meaningless term anyway—to Simcoe Day in honour of the founder of the province,

the Hon. John Graves Simcoe. I urge all members of this Legislature to support the bill.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the member for Simcoe East and with all due respect for Col. John Graves Simcoe, I am afraid I cannot support the bill.

I do not underestimate the contribution of John Graves Simcoe to this province, and the member has outlined that, I think, more than adequately. However, Col. Simcoe has been honoured by the naming of one county, two provincial ridings, one lake and a downtown Toronto hotel, which elevated him to the peerage. What more can a man ask in this life?

There are so many others, as the hon. member has mentioned, who have contributed to our society and to our province, who I believe have an equal claim. The member has mentioned a few, I would like to mention a few.

I am sure the hon. member for Muskoka, the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) will want to nominate that great medical practitioner, pioneer and humanitarian who was born in his riding in the town of Gravenhurst, Dr. Norman Bethune; but as China has recognized him so glowingly and so well, perhaps we don't need an Ontario holiday named after him.

Mr. Conway: Pretty red; pretty red, Jimmy.

Mr. Foulds: No. 2; we could call the day MacDonald day, after the clan that has contributed so much to Ontario, from Sir John A. and John Sandfield Macdonald to the Hon. Ross Macdonald and the NDP's own Donald C. MacDonald.

Mr. Breithaupt: We have a Donald S. Macdonald too.

Mr. Foulds: Or we could name the day after several great, but past, Liberal statesmen of the province, such as Edward Blake or if you wanted to be more radical William Lyon Mackenzie or George Brown; or perhaps my favourite, Robert Baldwin. After all it was during the ministries of Sir Robert Baldwin in Upper Canada, in 1842-1843 and 1847-1848, that the principle of responsible government was finally and indisputably established.

Mr. Conway: Have you read his will?

Mr. Foulds: As a matter of fact, here we have a typical Liberal position, one Liberal attacking another; the tradition carries on.

We could name it, quite legitimately I believe, after Joseph Brant, although he does have a county named after him he doesn't have all the other things that Col. Simcoe has named after him.

We could name it after some of the great builders of this province. Sir Adam Beck in terms of Hydro; or in the social field, Egerton Ryerson.

Interjections.

Mr. Foulds: Yes, poor old Ryerson only has a polytechnical institute named after him.

So I have come to the conclusion—or I did at one point in my thinking on this matter—that perhaps what we should do is find some equivalent title to the churches grab-bag title of all souls' or all saints' day, and then we could name the Civic Holiday something like all heroes' day or all contributors' day. But I frankly found that a bit cumbersome, even for my mind, and decided that there is one figure in Ontario's history who really deserves a day named after her; the first woman elected to the House of Commons and the first woman elected to the Ontario Legislature, Agnes Macphail.

Agnes Macphail was born in Grey county, Ont. She is a native of the province and made her contributions to the province and died in Ontario in February, 1954. She was, as I said, the first woman in Canada to be elected as a member of parliament. In 1921, as a candidate for the United Farmers of Ontario, she was elected in what was then called Southeast Grey riding. She sat federally for 19 years, serving from 1921 to 1940; in the last five years she sat for the new riding of Grey-Bruce, from 1935 to 1940. She was, unfortunately, defeated in 1940, but bounced back to be elected a member of this Legislature in 1943 and retired in 1951.

She was elected in 1943, sat until 1945; defeated in 1945, re-elected in 1948; sat from 1948 to 1951. Agnes Macphail was renowned for her platform wit and for her compelling demand for social reform in this country and for peace abroad.

Mr. Conway: And her wardrobe.

Mr. Foulds: I think it's fair to say that both at the federal level and in this House, she had strong views on the importance of education and never lost her interest in it, starting with her career as a teacher. She was a leader in women's rights. When she first walked down the traditional

length of corridor to attend the opening in the Senate chamber, she was conscious of leading the way for other women, so much so that she wrote: "I could almost hear them coming." She was a strong speaker and a strong advocate of democracy in its best sense. She was uncompromising in her views.

And she was often irritated by the discussion in the federal House on immigration policy when the term "common labourers" was tossed about. She said:

We do not sufficiently respect those who toil with their hands. I am truly amazed at the sentiments that are expressed by some of our well-groomed, luxuriously-living friends. They have evidently not had their brow wet with sweat for some time.

She protested a proposal to bring in "servant girls as though they were a class apart." She said:

If that girl's character and her brains are as good, is she not the equal in every way of the woman of the house who hires a servant simply because her husband is in a financial position to enable her to do so?

She spoke out fervently in defence of the miners of Cape Breton, so much so that her name has found its way into folk music. A little ballad was sung in the late 20s with these opening lines: "God, give us more women like Agnes Macphail, when the miners were hungry she never did fail."

She spoke out throughout her career on behalf of farmers, both in the federal House and once again in the provincial House. To some extent she damaged her career by speaking out in favour of prison reform. At the federal level she demanded a royal commission inquiry on one occasion. And here in the Ontario Legislature she spoke out for the reform of the Mercer institution.

She was instrumental and played a leading role in the organization of the Elizabeth Fry Society. She spoke out on behalf of pensioners and on behalf of reforms in pensions and in health.

I just want to conclude with a quotation from the last public speech that she made when George Drew brought in some amendments that were agreed to by the various provinces and the federal government to provide old age pensions without a means test for everyone 70 years and over and with an eligibility test for those 65 to 69. She said:

Of all the social legislation I have watched during the last 30 years, almost all of it has come down because a party was seeking power and made definite promises which they kept in this case, or which they were shoved into that position by desire to stay in power.

From now on we will go on improving the legislation little by little, but, again, we will get the improvements only at the time it suits the government, because of pressure or because of a desire to attain power or stay in power to give it.

We in the CCF are going to vote for this bill as it represents an important step towards the goal of social justice for which some of us have been talking and fighting for the last 30 years. Of course we will vote for it.

Finally, she said:

I want to see complete health service; medical care paid for at a decent rate—hospital care, dental care and whatever else they need.

It is not, I assure the hon. member for Simcoe East (Mr. G. E. Smith), that I do not respect his nominee; but I respect my nominee more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Conway: It is a pleasure for me to follow such distinguished predecessors in this most interesting debate; and I shan't wax historical for very long. I shall try and confine my remarks to the bill at hand and not perhaps wade through the very impressive list of personalities that were introduced in however an oblique fashion by my hon. friend from Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds).

[5:30]

Very simply, I support the concept for many of the reasons that were so eloquently outlined by my friend from Simcoe East. But central to my support of this concept is the fact that I think we should honour John Graves Simcoe, above and beyond all else, because he was the quintessential Tory—and there aren't too many of those left in this august assembly. I know that if Col. Simcoe were to look from my position here this afternoon and see what is left of his great party—

Mr. Hodgson: He'd be proud of it.

Mr. Conway: —perhaps he would be a little more concerned than some of the people who lay claim to the party today.

One famous historian has said about our first Lieutenant Governor—and I quote:

Here was a man who, in his reactionary conviction, his overwrought profession of loyalty, his love of monarchy, aristocracy and the Church of England, his contempt for everything democratic and republican, was Tory to the very tips of his fingers.

I'm sure my hon. friend from Kingston and the Islands can appreciate this sentiment, for I know the hon. member for York South has spoken in previous debates of the context in which John Graves Simcoe found himself, of the Keefers, the Cartwrights, the Simcoes and the Strachans—those refugees from the American Revolution who knew what kind of a society they wanted. They did not want a society of gradation or of any democratic representativeness. They wanted a society in which each and every man knew his place and in which there would be a clear connection between the state and the church. Lo, the wary Methodist found his way into that particular environment. Ryerson was indeed not to be any friend of our first Lieutenant Governor. Neither were those Americans from which he and his loyal Queen's Rangers fled in defeat in the last decade of the 18th century.

John Graves Simcoe brought to the Conservative tradition in Upper Canada a strain of 18th-century Toryism that was an important contribution to the subsequent political development, indeed the mainstream, of Conservatism in the 19th century. Sadly, that is long gone from the progeny we see before us today.

Simcoe's view of Upper Canada was not to be an egalitarian situation, as the member for York North (Mr. Hodgson) might like us to believe, but one where the English parish and all the peace, order and good government found therein would be brought to the colonial circumstance of Upper Canada. It was John Graves Simcoe, perhaps very wisely—and I suppose the hon. member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) would have difficulty in supporting this particular part of the Simcoe tradition—who took the provincial capital from Niagara-on-the-Lake or Newark, as it was then called, and moved it to the town of York in 1797. For that we must be very thankful, because clearly Toronto owes a great deal, in addition to the peerage that a local hotel has given the hon. gentleman about whom we are speaking; there was indeed a very important contribution to the life and times of this fair town in which we find ourselves today.

Simcoe took a particularly dim view of the Americans, and wisely so. They were the

democratic rabble who were to be held in the full view of all the rest of the world as all that was wrong with the democratic enterprise; there would be none of that here. I think the expression he used to describe his efforts was, "We shall make Upper Canada in the image and transcription of the British constitution." Well, he didn't quite succeed. One of his first moves was to appoint lord lieutenants in the various counties designated in the new Province of Upper Canada, but the Provincial Secretary—the Duke of Portland, I believe—quickly vetoed this rather presumptuous suggestion.

I think one of the things that's interesting about our friend Simcoe is that he left Upper Canada and went off to Santo Domingo and I would not wish such a fate to any one of our august Tory friends in this 30th Parliament of Ontario.

In his address to the first session of the Parliament of Upper Canada in 1792, in October of that year, he said something which I think is worth quoting. With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I shall take a few moments to cite his concluding remarks to the assembly gathered in Newark on that day. He said:

I cannot dismiss you without earnestly desiring you to promote by precept and example among your respective counties the regular habits of piety and morality, the surest foundations of all private and public felicity. And at this juncture, I particularly recommend to you, honourable gentlemen here gathered, to explain that this province is singularly blessed, not with a mutilated constitution but with a constitution which has stood the tests of experience—[He certainly forgot the recent dissolution of the first British Empire.] and which is the very image and transcript of that of Great Britain by which she has long established and secured to her subjects as much freedom and happiness as is possible to be enjoyed under the subordination necessary to a civilized society.

Here was a Loyalist speaking and what he was saying, in essence, was that which we address ourselves to, I suppose, in our provincial motto, "loyal in the beginning, let us remain." There is a Loyalist tradition, long forgotten certainly by the Progressive Conservative Party, save and except, the antiquarian interests of the member for York North.

Mr. Hodgson: I see that you graduated recently.

Mr. Conway: We shall keep the ad hominem out of this academic dissertation.

Mr. Moffatt: When does the academic dissertation start?

Mr. Conway: There is a Loyalist tradition which we in this province have tried to pay some attention to and I very happily support the idea, as I say, for many of the reasons that the hon. member for Simcoe East outlined in the beginning. More than anything else, we should honour John Graves Simcoe because he was perhaps the most significant Tory of this province's pre-Confederation history. I know the hon. member for Simcoe East will want to appreciate that in the fullness of its extent, I stand here as one who can be very sympathetic with the Loyalist and Tory tradition and support the particular resolution or bill or whatever wholeheartedly.

Mr. Warner: You'd support anything.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other hon. member wish to speak to this? The member for Kingston and the Islands.

Mr. Hodgson: Give them the word.

Mr. Sweeney: It has already been given.

Mr. Norton: I rise to speak on this particular bill as one who not only knows but appreciates his place, however humble and simple it may be. I also speak as a member representing perhaps the most historic settlement and certainly the longest permanently settled area of the province, a community that lives comfortably with its history, a community that is appreciative of its history and a community whose sons have walked the halls of government at all levels in this country, at the federal level and at the provincial level, and have left their mark in the history of this country and of this province.

The history of our community by the way, also as has been pointed out, is associated, however briefly, with the history of the gentleman in whose honour this bill proposes that we rename the present Civic Holiday. It's significant for us that it was in Kingston that he was first sworn in as Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, and held the first meeting of his newly-appointed executive council.

During the course of the debate on a bill similar to this one approximately four years ago, the hon. member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) proclaimed the virtues of another early citizen. He suggested that if a

holiday was to be named for anyone we might consider the contribution of the Hon. Richard Cartwright, another historic figure with associations with the city of Kingston.

Mr. Conway: Which one?

Mr. Norton: Having become somewhat familiar with the life and times of Mr. Cartwright and of Col. Simcoe, I'm happy to say that—

Mr. Conway: Which one, Keith?

Mr. Norton: I am pleased to speak in support of this bill at this particular time.

Mr. Conway: Which Cartwright?

Mr. Norton: Col. Simcoe has been derided, Mr. Speaker, for having what might be considered as a great vision for this province. It is exemplary, perhaps, that given the responsibility that he had for creating a colony out of an inhospitable wilderness, that a man would have a vision—an extensive vision—as to how this awesome task could be accomplished.

There is no need for sarcasm concerning Col. Simcoe's dream of creating in the Ontario wilderness a shining example of the benefits of the British tradition. I would indeed be surprised if the British government of that day had delegated this authority to anyone who would not think in those terms.

I think that when we view the figures in our history, it is very important that we see them in the context of the time which they served and in which they lead. Their vision has to be seen in the context of the time and the values which were prevalent, and which lead to their holding the offices which they held.

One cannot entertain that these dreams were not without any consideration of the realities of pioneer life. Col. Simcoe planned to establish his capital at what is now London, not quite a settlement at that time. It cannot be considered as folly. His reasoning was undoubtedly based on the need, as he saw it, to encourage expansion in the southwestern portion of the province. It would appear that Simcoe and Cartwright were more often in agreement than not. One major disagreement centred on Simcoe's plan—

Mr. Moffatt: Just like Liberals and Tories today.

Mr. Conway: Throw Strachan in and let's get the pot boiling.

Mr. Norton: —to establish the British system of jurisprudence in the province. Cart-

wright was opposed to this move, being of the opinion that the existing system of magistrates was quite adequate.

This is understandable when we realize that Cartwright, though he had no legal training, was one of those very magistrates. Cartwright believed that—

Mr. Conway: It was called the Family Compact.

Mr. Norton: —lawyers were not needed. A sentiment that we often hear expressed in this august chamber these days. So, although he may—

Mr. Foulds: Tell that to the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells).

Mr. Norton: —not have had support on some of his other ideas or the other dreams that he had, but the elimination of the need for lawyers, I'm sure, could generate some support on the other side of the House, at any rate.

It might be noted that Cartwright's experience consisted—

Mr. Foulds: Tell the Minister of Education.

Mr. Norton: —almost entirely of six years as a magistrate, together with a merchant's history of looking to the courts for redress, something which he did very seldom. It is likely that this Kingston merchant was made a magistrate because he was one of few educated men in a community where very few had formal education.

Mr. Conway: It was called the Family Compact—another rather elegant tradition.

Mr. Norton: Fortunately for the Ontario legal system, Mr. Cartwright's reasoning did not prevail.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: What is it called in the Privy Council office in Ottawa today?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Norton: In spite of the occasional disagreement—

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) is the only member who can strut sitting down, it is amazing.

Mr. Norton: In spite of occasional disagreements, Lieutenant Governor Simcoe ungrudgingly acknowledged Cartwright's value, not only to his district but to his province. Consequently he appointed Cartwright—

Mr. Conway: What about his grandson?

Mr. Norton: —to an important post as Upper Canada's commissioner, to meet with the representative of Lower Canada. Both Cartwright and Simcoe worked in harmony for better than the last year and a half of Col. Simcoe's tenure as Lieutenant Governor. Simcoe emerged as a man of idealism and energy and a man of progressive ideas. In contrast to Simcoe, Cartwright has been accused of being reactionary, at times illiberal and at times parochial in his philosophy and outlook. Most times he was a dedicated defender of the status quo.

Col. Simcoe was not without his faults, as has been pointed out by some of the hon. members across the House. The same has been said of virtually every historic figure, but the fact is that in the few short years that he was Lieutenant Governor, he established the foundations for our province and had an impact upon its development that has lasted to this day.

He had a grand design and I would ask that we honour him for it. Much of that vision has been realized within the framework which he devised and implemented. Undoubtedly other contemporaries of his had their contributions to make as well. By honouring Simcoe and his unquestionable leadership abilities, we honour them as well. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to support this legislation.

Mr. Hodgson: The member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) says he was a great Tory.

Mr. Moffatt: Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to say, in answer to all of the speculation to my left here by the third group, that I don't have another candidate to put forward. I rise to take part in this debate to say that I want to give clear and unequivocal support to the sponsor of the bill in making this particular motion at this time.

But I would like, Mr. Speaker, to deal with my reasons for so doing at some length. Now I have had the request that I not be too wordy, so I will cut it to a minimum so that certain other members can take part.

Mr. Norton: I don't know how you can talk at all after last weekend.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, let's get on with the debate.

Mr. Moffatt: My reasons, Mr. Speaker, have to do with some of the decisions that other people have made in order to take part in this debate. I listened with great interest to the member for Renfrew North;

it was difficult, but I listened. I also listened to the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton). I must really say that at this point in time, when this particular government is coming to an end and this is the last of a Tory reign, it is very important to us that something be done to make sure that Simcoe, who began it all, is properly honoured. I really think that this is important.

The member for Kingston and the Islands referred to the connection between Simcoe and Kingston. I would like to extend that connection, because as you are aware Mr. Speaker, just this past weekend this party had a very successful convention at Kingston, and I think it is only appropriate that at this time in history we take advantage of the very gracious offer by the member for Simcoe East (Mr. G. E. Smith) to commemorate Simcoe with the end of a Tory administration, that we are ready for and that this province will never have a chance again.

If we don't do it now we will never get another chance to honour Col. Simcoe.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: You had better have that framed because in a year's time you are really going to believe it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; we have a limited time. The member for Kitchener.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this bill, which the member for Simcoe East has brought before us. I realize we are dealing now with a holiday in early August, and not the one on April 1 to which I presume the events of last weekend's convention referred to by the member for Durham East (Mr. Moffatt) would apply.

Mr. Foulds: No, no, the events of last week by your party in the Legislature.

Mr. Breithaupt: This marks the third time this particular bill has been brought forward by the member for Simcoe East; it certainly shows his belief in the value of the subject but also says something about the recognition which can be given, certainly, in the name of John Graves Simcoe, to the pioneers who were involved in the history and development of Ontario.

When John Graves Simcoe arrived at Kingston it consisted, as he writes and I quote, "of some 50 buildings, only one of which was built of stone." Well I understand it has grown somewhat since then.

He then moved on, not only through Newark and York, but he began to initiate

certain roads, heading north from Toronto, and the east and west highway which he called Dundas St. Indeed, Col. Simcoe travelled so extensively in this province, one would have thought he was a member of a select committee—

Mr. Moffatt: Either that or the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea).

Mr. Breithaupt: —however, such was not the case in those early and somewhat simple days of government within our province.

In his desire to develop Upper Canada, Simcoe did recognize the importance of immigration. Even before he had reached Canada, he had written to the Secretary of State that he wanted "to promote the cultivation of the land, to give power and energy to civilization, efficacy to just government and to combine a force whose appearance may prevent the very mediation of hostility."

The riding I represent was settled in the latter part of that century; indeed, in 1799, some several years after John Graves Simcoe had left Ontario. It was settled by the people called the Pennsylvania Dutch; and this represented an extension and encouragement of Simcoe's policy of developing immigration by Loyalist persons from the United States.

Certainly the forebears of the people who have settled in the Kitchener area made their way from Pennsylvania in search of peace. As good farmers and artisans they preferred the guarantees of British protection as well as the right to be exempt from military service and the bearing of arms as their religious background wished. These people wrested from the forest some of the very best agricultural land in Ontario, and I think the development of those early years is an important reminder of the kind of framework of government which was established during the five sessions of Simcoe's Parliament.

As has been referred to, one of the first anti-slavery Acts came from that Parliament, as did a major reform of the Judicature Act. While the Legislative Assembly and Council was composed in a much different fashion than it is today, many of the problems were the same. Indeed, Marcus Van Steen wrote as follows: "Simcoe expressed himself as well satisfied with the first Parliament. He found the members zealous, at times overzealous, especially when it came to spending money."

Mr. Conway: Listen to this, Bill.

Mr. Breithaupt: This government certainly has not changed in that attitude as we re-

member the works of the earliest of the Tories and deal now with the latter-day ones.

Mr. Conway: What do you think of that Bill?

Mr. Breithaupt: By recognizing this August holiday as Simcoe Day, I think we would be recognizing as well the contributions of all of those early settlers and administrators. It was their hard work and perseverance that began to carve Ontario from the forest; settlements were established and farm lands cleared against great odds and with great hardships. Roads were built where none existed and outposts were set up in what was, even though somewhat more peaceful than many other parts of North America, in effect a wilderness. The basis for commerce and for the government which we have today, was built from that beginning.

Simcoe Day, I believe, would help to pay tribute not only to John Graves Simcoe but also particularly to his many contemporaries—not necessarily of English, Irish or Scottish background, but indeed many of whom were immigrants from Europe and immigrants with a Loyalist tradition from the United States. These are the pioneers who require recognition, and we can certainly do it by placing on the name of this day the name of the man who was given the first responsibilities of being governor of this newly developing colony as it then was.

As our neighbours to the south salute their 200th birthday, they are often very anxious to recognize many of their historic figures, and indeed many of those figures have much less claim to recognition from time to time than do the persons who we overlook over the years. Certainly this is an opportune time to recognize the pioneers of Ontario, and I would urge the House to approve, and for the government to consider the recognition of our first Monday holiday in August to be named in honour of the first governor of the province, and indeed in memory of the earliest pioneers, as Simcoe Day.

Mr. Conway: God save the Queen.

Mr. Speaker: Just before the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe starts, the hon. member for Haldimand-Norfolk indicated he had about a 30-second or one-minute contribution to make, so perhaps we might split it. However, the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe first.

Mr. McCague: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to rise in support of the continuing efforts of the member for Simcoe East (Mr. G. E. Smith) to have the name of

Civic Holiday changed to Simcoe Day. I am sure the members on this side, and those opposite, recognize the importance of Simcoe county to this province, and they have already spoken of his contribution to the province as a whole. I just would like to remind the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) that even though the politics of John Graves Simcoe might not have suited him I think it might have been well if we were to—

Mr. Foulds: I never mentioned that.

Mr. McCague:—honour someone whose politics are still very much alive.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Haldimand-Norfolk.

Mr. Foulds: That was a very short speech.

Mr. Conway: He doesn't know where they are alive?

Mr. G. I. Miller: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a privilege for me to rise to take part in the debate this afternoon. I would like to make it known that I did send the bill back to my riding for a feedback, to my six area municipalities and the regional municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk. The following resolution came back from the region:

(Moved by: Lorna J. D. Miller, town of Haldimand; and seconded by Vern Partridge, township of Delhi:

That the council of the regional municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk support the bill introduced in the Ontario Legislature which proclaims "Simcoe Day" in place of the old name Civic Holiday.

I might add that a PS at the bottom says: "I trust that when this bill is presented before the House, it will be favourably received."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Do any other hon. members wish to speak to this bill?

Mr. Foulds: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker: The member for Dufferin-Simcoe said that I attacked the politics of the colonel. I don't recall doing so at any point in my remarks.

Mr. Norton: Cheap point of order.

Mr. Foulds: The other thing I would like to correct, there are three provincial ridings honouring Col. Simcoe.

Mr. Speaker: This order of business is discharged. It being now 6 o'clock I shall leave the chair and resume at 8 o'clock.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Monday, June 14, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, JUNE 14, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

Clerk of the House: The ninth order, resuming of the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 94, An Act to provide Certain Protections for Purchasers of New Homes.

ONTARIO NEW HOME WARRANTIES PLAN ACT (concluded)

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, supported as I am by the socialist hordes behind me, I'd like to—two of the horde have arrived.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I'd watch those fellows.

Mr. Renwick: I did want to pick up briefly on the remarks which I was making at the time of the adjournment on Bill 94, which is entitled, delightfully, An Act to provide Certain Protections for Purchasers of New Homes. We wouldn't want to think for a moment that we were providing for a bill which would provide all of the protections for the buyer of a new home; we wouldn't want to ever go that far in it.

What I was saying just before the private member's bill was called at 5 o'clock, was that there's a strange philosophy around that every time we move to deal with the business community in any of its aspects, and in particular the real estate industry in the Province of Ontario, we are immediately confronted by the Conservative government—aided and abetted, as I said earlier, by members of the Liberal Party, who, from time to time, can be classified as composing a party—that all we are legislating is about a small group of scoundrels, and that everybody else is fine. And if it wasn't just for the small group of scoundrels, we would never ever have to deal with anything in this Legislature.

I guess it's a profound difference in our philosophy about the jurisprudence of what is taking place to indicate quite clearly that the place where scoundrels are dealt with is under the Criminal Code of Canada. But

you can't get to the Criminal Code of Canada, until the provinces within their jurisdiction have established standards of behaviour, very high standards of behaviour, below which nobody can fall. And then you provide a venue by which the criminal law can come in and deal with those who, despite those high standards, persist in breaking them in a way which is wilful and neglectful of what their obligations are to the society which is involved.

I would like to try once again, as we did in a number of other bills before the assembly from time to time, to reassert the proposition that we in this party are not engaged in talking about a small group of scoundrels.

I don't think that there's anybody in this party, and I'm quite certain in the Legislature of Ontario, who considers that they're here solely to deal with a small group of scoundrels and we pass all our laws for that purpose, and we impose immense obligations on the rest of the business community in order to apprehend a few scoundrels. That has nothing to do with it; so let's stop talking about it.

Let's simply say that what we are here engaged in is raising the standard of behaviour in an industry which has had sufficient indication, province-wide, that it does not adhere to a standard of behaviour which is acceptable within society as a whole. And when we've established that standard of behaviour, and when there are wilful and gross breaches of it, then the criminal law can pick up.

But that's all that the criminal law is for. The criminal law is not engaged in enforcing other than minimal standards of behaviour. We are engaged in legislating relatively high standards of behaviour. There was a great deal of tut-tuttings when my colleague, the member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans), was speaking earlier today in the debate about whether his majority was right or whether your majority was right or whether the Liberal Party's sense of majority was right, and whether or not that's what this bill was all about; I reiterate what I said before the adjournment for the private members' hour at 5 o'clock, that if I have to accept, and I

readily would accept, the conclusions drawn by my colleague the member for Wentworth and the work which he has physically done in this world about this whole question of standards, as opposed to the conclusions drawn by the experience of anybody else in the assembly, I would accept his, willingly, wholeheartedly and totally.

Mr. Shore: And forcibly.

Mr. Renwick: I am suggesting to the minister that in the course of this debate we not kid around about what we are talking about. We are trying in this bill to provide marginal protections and marginal protections only. I want to say to the minister that we in this caucus have great difficulty with bills like this. These are the kinds of bills which we had to suffer along with in the days of the Conservative majority in this assembly. We had to try desperately to say to ourselves they are good bills because they do something in that a Tory government would even consider that it would introduce them.

Those times have changed. I want the minister to know, along with any other members of the government who happen to have any influence upon the government of Ontario, that if this bill, as we understand it, is not vastly improved in committee of the whole House during the course of that debate, we will vote against it. We are going to caucus specifically about this tomorrow. I am quite sure it will not happen in any event, but if by any chance we should get to committee tonight, I will simply ask that it be stood down, because we will caucus tomorrow about the specific details of the objections which we have to this bill so that we can introduce amendments in committee of the whole House; and if they are not accepted within reasonable limits of the give and take of debate in this assembly, we will vote against the bill on third reading.

We are not engaged in ultimatums or anything else. I just want simply to say to the government this is an important bill. We are very concerned with it. We do not accept that historic argument that somehow or other you weren't able to get one at the federal level, after many years of discussion and negotiation, and that now you are bringing in your own bill because the Liberal government in Ottawa has failed to introduce one. We don't accept that argument, we never have accepted it.

Anybody who has ever had anything to do with the whole question of trying to get uniformity across Canada, at any time on

any matter in laws dealing with matters which are strictly within the provincial jurisdiction, will know that somebody has to front-run the game. The Province of Ontario has an immense responsibility in these areas to front-run the game. They haven't front-run the game at all. They have played along and they have tagged along and now they use it as an excuse; that because there isn't a federal bill which will be enacted by all of the provinces on a uniform basis they now are coming to the rescue of those persons who are buying houses for the first time.

That flies in the face of history so far as uniformity of legislation is concerned and we do not accept it as an excuse for this government. We consider it only as an occasion for their total unconcern, on the one hand, or their total failure to understand the immense complexity and power of the real estate industry on the other side.

The minister knows full well that in the time of his predecessor when we were dealing with business practices, we tried to get the business practices bill extended to the real estate industry. Oh boy, were we ever chopped down in this party at that time. We had relative acceptance by one minister of the Crown, who then took ill, and the present parliamentary assistant just went along with the total pressure of the industry and the Business Practice Act does not apply to real estate.

Do you know why it doesn't apply, when it's such an important contract for people to enter into? We said, precisely because it is that important, that the Business Practice Act must apply to the real estate industry when a person is buying a home, but we have never been able to persuade the Tory party about that.

I think it is trite to say, but it requires restating from time to time, that for the great majority of people in the Province of Ontario—and by great majority, if somebody wants to argue with me, I will say 90 per cent—for 90 per cent of the people in the Province of Ontario who want to buy a home it is the single most important transaction of their lifetime.

The number of dollars with which they are involved, either through down payments or mortgage payments and interest payments, make it for most people the one and only major transaction in which they will be involved in their lifetime. The obstacles in the path of consumers in the real estate system in this Province of Ontario are a total

disgrace; an absolute, incontrovertible total disgrace. I have reference to the expenses which are involved for anybody who wants to buy a new home, let alone the hurdles with which he is involved if he wants to buy a home which has already been inhabited.

The reason they are a total disgrace is because nobody ever faces up to the problem that from the consumer's point of view it is the major transaction of that particular person's lifetime.

What are we faced with? A bill which talks about what?—warranties. Let me, with the greatest respect to my profession, describe that as one of the finest weasel words in the vocabulary of the English language. In the county courts and in the Supreme Court of Ontario, and in the Supreme Court of Canada, it has been honed and refined for various classifications at various times; the word has different meanings for different people in different areas of law, and for different purposes.

It has no meaning for the ordinary citizen, because he assumes it means something simple. Then when somebody says, "I warrant to you so and so", he says, "That man has guaranteed to me so and so." That's what the word "warranty" means to the ordinary citizen, and that's what in most of my talk I think it means. It doesn't mean that. When we talk about a bill, which in section 13—it's a wonderful number for the section; it's a misfortune that the minister's bill should provide that in section 13, since I happen to be superstitious when I talk about this kind of problem.

When the bill says that every vendor of a home warrants to the owner, the ordinary citizens of the province consider that word "warrant" means "guarantee"; that that means the person who warrants to him stands behind that contract for everything which it says.

Well every now and then, when we are involved in these intricate refinements and honing of words of the English language which mean something to the ordinary citizen and you want to understand what they mean, the last place you go is the judicial dictionaries. You go to something called the Oxford dictionary. Some time when you have nothing else to do look it up. Warranty: If you were buying a house—I spoiled my whole line for the evening. If you were buying a horse and somebody warranted to you that it was in sound condition and it turned out to be in unsound condition, in the early days of English law you returned the horse. For most people in Ontario—and this is how I

spoiled my major line of the evening—if you change the "r" to a "u" most people think that's what it should be; if the warranty doesn't stand up they should be able to say to the vendor, be he builder or seller of that house or property, "I am walking away from it; you can have it." We can deal with the questions, as my colleague from Wentworth said, of the wall that is not plumb, the line that is not square, the house that will settle, the water that will flow into the basement and all of the rest of it. We can walk away from it and say, "You build it, you sold it; you take it back and sell it to somebody else. Don't leave me with the remedy and damages. It is totally inadequate for the purposes for which it is required."

[8:15]

I want the minister to understand that what we in this party are talking about is not some sort of minor adjustments of the bill. We want very much to get in this assembly, in this Parliament, in the time that is left to us in this Parliament—and God knows how long that will be—some kind of a bill which will be meaningful.

If we look at the other definition of "warranty" in the Oxford English Dictionary, it means something incidental to the main contract. When you are buying a house, and it's the major transaction of your lifetime, the question of whether or not the house is properly built is not something incidental to the main contract. And that is what the law has done for its own purposes to the various terms which are involved in it.

I intend no disrespect to the legal profession, but every lawyer comes, as I do and as every other professional man does, with certain blinkers on the way in which he perceives the problems with which he is faced. The minister has come to this through the eyes of lawyers and through the eyes of the court; for practical purposes, he has adopted a definition which, in the final elucidation of the term "warranty," is in the Sale of Goods Act of the Province of Ontario.

"Warranty" means an agreement with reference to goods [in the bill before us, the reference is to a house] that are the subject of a contract of sale but collateral to the main purpose of the contract, the breach of which gives rise to a claim for damages but not to a right to reject the goods [I will substitute the word "house" for "goods"] and treat the contract as repudiated.

Even in the sale of goods, which for most people is a transitory matter of one kind or

another—it is designed for merchants and those who deal in goods, and not really for consumer protection—they have a distinction between what is a warranty, which is a collateral matter to the main contract for which your only remedy is damages, and something called a condition, which says that if there is a breach of that condition, you can repudiate the contract or you can elect to treat the condition as a warranty and sue for damages. It's the buyer of the goods who is given those privileges to treat those things in that distinctive way, who is given the option to step down from the one stratum of law to the other stratum and seek only damages for the remedy.

When one reads this bill and can understand it—and I have tried to make it somewhat clear, without getting involved in the immense intricacies of warranties and all the rest of the things—then one can perhaps understand why we in this party feel so strongly about the bill and why it is, with great reluctance in this present situation, that we are prepared to support the bill on second reading. But we will want significant and important changes in it, because we cannot say to a person who buys a house in the Province of Ontario at this time, at the cost which is involved in terms of the overall mortgage payments and the runout of the amortized payments over many years, that whether the house is properly built is a matter collateral to the main object. We just can't say that.

It's very funny how all of the refinements of the word "warranty" work through. The funny thing is, when you get into insurance law and the insured person warrants certain things to the insurance companies, what right do the insurance companies have?

The insurance companies have the old right in law to walk away from the contract. All I am pleading for, and I have pleaded about it on many other occasions, is that the English language is designed for communication, not for obfuscation. The ordinary sense and meaning of the terms are important.

When one is talking about the rights of people who are buying houses, they shouldn't have to consult a lawyer to find out what the terms mean. I am saying to the minister that this bill is engaged in the obfuscation of the problem which we are involved with. We are talking about a builder, or a person who sells a home which has never formerly been inhabited, and that he be required to guarantee the home—that is what we want.

My colleague, the member for Wentworth, made it very clear to you. He thinks the only conceivable way it is possible to do that—and he may very well be right; he has a lot more practical knowledge about these matters than I will ever have—he may very well be right that the only method is by an inspection on the spot at the time.

It is very interesting that when you are building a Bank of Commerce tower, or when you are building the ManuLife Centre, or when you are building any edifice on which you can afford the luxury of an architect, there is just no way that building is ever transferred in the commercial world without very significant and different guarantees and protections that are never available to the homeowner.

I am not going to go on at great length. I just want to say to the minister that my colleagues in the House don't want him to misunderstand our position on the bill. We will introduce very significant amendments. We will not accept the proposition that this word "warranty" is just going to float out there to be used for court applications or questions of whether or not damages will flow.

We are going to say to the minister and we are going to say to the government that this bill has got to be protected. It has got to be perfect. We have waited too long over too many sessions for us to fool around any longer in this kind of pussy-footing operation with respect to the protection of those who buy new homes. Because we have got to get on to the protection of people who will buy homes that have been occupied before. If you don't start at the right place some time, then you are going to be in serious trouble.

I want the minister to know that we don't happen to have an overall umbrella of what we will do with respect to the real property law of this province when we become the government, or if we become the government—or if we still remain in opposition, what we will urge upon the government to do.

We will certainly correct the land registration system. We will certainly ensure that a sketch of survey will be available. We will certainly ensure that soil tests will be available. We will certainly ensure that the flow of water is discernible and understood by the person who is buying the home. We will certainly make certain that the house is built according to certain acceptable plans and specifications as the minimal requirement. And we will certainly make certain

that if there is anything which can be categorized as a major defect, that it will be equivalent to a condition under the law of sale of goods, and that the buyer will be able to reject the contract and turn the house back if he wishes to do so.

In other circumstances, it may very well be that they are matters, as the word "warranty" has become to be known in the law of the sale of goods, which are incidental to the main thing on which the remedy will be damages. Or, it may be somewhere in between, where it will be up to the buyer of the house to elect whether he will treat it as a condition and repudiate the contract and turn the house back; or elect otherwise to treat it as a warranty and get damages for it.

Those are very significant problems that we have with this bill. Every time the government introduces a piece of legislation, we can't assume that it still thinks it is the majority in the Province of Ontario. We, every now and then, have to decide what we will do. In this particular instance, we decided we couldn't wait any longer. We had to have something in the law dealing with this matter. Therefore we agreed that we are going to support the bill on second reading against the immense divisions within our caucus as to whether or not we should or should not support it. Those remarks have been mirrored by my colleague the member for Durham East (Mr. Moffatt), who is just as reluctant as anybody else in the assembly to support it, and just as reluctant as, if not more so than, my colleague the member for Wentworth, with all of his experience to support it.

Mr. Shore: They have more positions than Masters and Johnson.

Mr. Renwick: We're going to support the bill. That's a gesture toward the government. But we also want the minister to understand if we do not get substantial amendments, not by way of ultimatum to the government but in the give and take of debate within this assembly during the course of this bill in committee of the whole House, then I can assure him, for whatever that's worth—and I'm quite certain it doesn't strike terror in the hearts of the Tory government knowing full well the support which it always manages to get in the assembly—we will vote against the bill on third reading. That is in no way a threat or an ultimatum or anything else. That's simply saying to him what our course

of action will be during the course of the debate in this assembly.

Mr. Nixon: Good heavens!

Mr. Shore: No no, a statement of fact.

Mr. Renwick: I regret having to take up such an immense amount of time on this bill but my colleague from Durham East, my colleague from Wentworth, and myself, are all expressing to you, Mr. Speaker, what this caucus in this House at this time feels about this kind of a bill.

Mr. Shore: I would like to make a few comments on this bill and suggest that in principle we certainly support the concept. I'd like to make a few statements, though in direct reply and response to some of the comments of the member for Wentworth and more recently the member for Riverdale.

I won't debate how capable and how knowledgeable the member for Wentworth may be in the house-building industry, but he'd want to rethink some of his allegations and some of his statements because they either directly or indirectly address themselves to very severe poor workmanship put on by qualified, capable people. I think he's made those statements extreme to such an extent that if I were the trades people I'd want to look at these statements because I don't think they stand the light of truth and may not be doing justice to much of the trades involved in the house-building industry.

In relation to the concept, I believe, it's too bad that when the government tries to put forward a bill or a piece of legislation that is going to address itself to some problems it has to go very often from one extreme to another. That's what the member for Wentworth is suggesting and that's certainly what the member for Riverdale is suggesting. With the greatest respect, I believe very strongly, whether they like it or whether they don't like it, that the housing industry in Canada is for the purposes of the people.

If the government puts any overly undue restrictions on this whole industry, whether it likes it or whether it doesn't like it, and I'm getting to believe that they like it, it's going to scare the whole industry out of the field. I don't think that's healthy to the same very people that these people are purportedly trying to protect. I don't think one has to go to the extreme in trying to rationalize a fair and equitable plan. I don't think the government has, as the member has suggested, to come to immediate grips with it. Let's try

something out first, I suggest, and if improvements are needed at a later time, then that's the way to address ourselves to them. I cannot think of a more obvious one than the rent control bill, which I think is a catastrophe, and I'll put that on the record personally.

Mr. Renwick: It is one of the greatest pieces of legislation that has been passed in this assembly.

Mr. Shore: The member for Riverdale has suggested that the whole purpose is not to take care of the few bad apples. No one has suggested that at all. But what always brings these things to light is a certain number of bad apples.

[8:30]

Mr. Renwick: This member did and that member did.

Mr. Shore: I'm saying what usually brings these things to light is that type of thing. He also stressed that when a person buys a house and they're not satisfied with it at the time of transition, they should get their money back and go home. Now I want to tell you something that maybe even the member for Wentworth isn't aware of, in his hipboots and everything else; that human beings are what they are sometimes, and very often you're not talking about a \$1.98 item or something like that, where you come back and you give it back; very often, and I've seen it and it's not unduly uncommon, for any number of reasons, not necessarily on the basis of the workmanship or warranties, but for other reasons, it may well be they're going to try to get out of a contract. You just don't hand back a \$50,000 contract, that's very often done on a contractual basis rather than on a spec basis or otherwise.

Does he suggest that at the whim of any particular moment, if they're not satisfied, they can go and stick the owner or the builder? You've got to be fair to both sides in this, and I think this bill has tried to address itself to that aspect. If it can't be policed and properly administered, then they can take another look at it. But please, I say, for the sake of the people buying the houses, never mind the builders, if the minister goes to the extremes these colleagues on the right have suggested, on almost any piece of legislation, he's going to ruin an industry and ultimately ruin it for the public.

Mr. Makarchuk: Mr. Speaker, as an individual who has had some experience in

having to deal with people in the construction industry, and particularly the ones who build homes in subdivisions, I'm not sure that we're going to scare them. If we do scare them, I think we're going to scare them in the direction that they will be concerned about the kind of product they put out and what they put into the product and what they sell to the people.

The people are prepared to pay. Maybe they're not prepared to pay, but they have to pay, and they pay a good buck for the housing that they're getting these days. But they certainly are not getting the product that they should get. When the member for London North, I think—

Mr. Shore: So far you are right.

Mr. Makarchuk: Yes. When he speaks about the fact that there are a few bad apples in the industry, I should point out to him that in just about—

Mr. Cunningham: A majority according to the member for Wentworth.

Mr. Makarchuk: —every subdivision that I had to deal with, and I have had to deal with quite a few subdivisions in the city of Brantford, there have been major complaints from the people who have moved into those subdivisions. It wasn't a matter of just one builder in one subdivision, but there were builders in every subdivision who were putting out shabby products, who were trying to evade the building code, who refused to correct the problems afterwards and we found ourselves, and the municipality found itself, in a position that there's nothing we can do.

There were subdivisions being built where at least 50 per cent of the homes had outstanding work orders against them. Unfortunately, the municipality found itself in the position that there really is no way it could enforce these work orders.

The people, of course, were conned into these situations. In most cases the people had put their money down, they made plans to move, they had to move at a certain time. They moved into their homes because they had no other place to live and they were stuck with these things. Then afterwards, when they tried to rectify these problems, when they tried to go and find somebody to help them out, there was nobody to help, there was no place to turn.

You go and see their lawyer; sort of the standard argument. You go and see their lawyer, or you go and see the builder. Of course

the lawyer in most cases, was unavailable; and if they did get to the lawyer, eventually, there was little they could do about it. There was no penalty, no financial hold-back or anything of that nature on which they could count or use as a lever to try and bring about the improvements or the repairs to their home.

Consequently, you have a whole series of complaints right now about water coming in, rugs being ruined; where you have drapes—

Mr. Shore: That is why we are supporting this bill.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: That is why we have the bill.

Mr. Makarchuk: You have the drapes being ruined; you have the wiring system ineffective, it doesn't serve the purposes of the home, the lights dim as the fridge goes on and so on.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Support the bill!

Mr. Makarchuk: Admit it. Now the minister has the bill, the problem has been around for years and years and it makes you wonder just exactly where the government has been for the last 20 years in this situation; this is not a new problem. Finally it has come to the conclusion that it has to have a bill; we want to make sure it's a darn good bill, that it does serve the purpose, that it doesn't and is not manipulated the way the government is trying to manipulate or misuse the rent control bill at this time, that we are not stuck with that kind of a situation with this particular bill.

When the minister says at this time, as he has said with the rent control bill that this is the kind of legislation that's going to go and do the job, and then through his regulations, through his secret little memos to his rent control officers and so on, the minister tries to subvert the whole thing, we are trying to prevent the minister from doing the same thing with this bill, because this bill is important to the people of Ontario.

Mr. Hall: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to offer a few brief comments on this bill. I view the legislation as a major step in the right direction. The registration of builders, the protection to purchasers, and a clear method of settling differences between purchaser and vendor will be welcomed by both parties to the transaction of acquiring a home.

As the head of a relatively small building company prior to my election last September, I can't agree in any way with the exaggerated comments made this afternoon along the lines that the majority of builders were not giving value. For 21 years, the people I had the pleasure to work with in this industry did their jobs in all kinds of weather—in rain, heat and cold—because essentially it is not a job that can be done indoors as virtually every other job can be. They took necessary risks against injury. They did a lot of hard slugging. They worked overtime to complete tight schedules. They suffered layoffs when business was poor or when governments turned the money off or were slow in unwinding the red tape for lots to be approved to keep a balanced programme functioning.

In spite of all of this, and because of all of this, they took considerable pride in their work. They handled callbacks without complaint. In that period of time there was never a single lien, never a work order, never a single court action or even a threat of same, and never a difference with a customer that wasn't settled amicably to the satisfaction of the purchaser. I'm not just speaking about one particular company; I am speaking about all the companies that I had contact with.

Builders, their workers, their subtrades and their material suppliers, by far the greater percentage of whom have good standards of performance, will support this bill for two main reasons: They want an industry which makes a small percentage of poor builders come up to the proper standards of workmanship because, as in any profession, one bad apple does cast a dark shadow on everyone; and secondly, because the customer will have a better understanding of his rights and responsibilities when purchasing a home. Sometimes customers have been known to complain unduly about defects for a long period of time when perhaps they didn't have quite enough funds to pay for all the extras that they had ordered.

The building industry generally will have good reason to discipline itself properly, because it knows very well that the government will take over the job if there are many claims for dissatisfaction.

Mr. Shore: That's what they want to happen.

Mr. Hall: The building industry has many checks and balances in standards now—various building codes and material specifications, municipal inspectors, health inspectors, plumbing inspectors, electrical inspectors,

mortgage inspectors and professional engineers who under subdivision agreements and what have you, are supposed to establish proper lot drainage grades, survey requirements and many other items that have to be done in the construction of each home.

This applies to all homes, built everywhere, that are permanent residences, and not just on surveyed lots; a lot of homes that are built on difficult sites require some pretty tricky plans. To hear some of the members of the NDP speak you would think it is a very simple task to build a home. But it is not quite that easy.

However, the bill will provide yet another level of inspection. It won't replace these others. Yet to the extent that better control is needed—and I agree that some is needed—I suggest that the house-building industry, which has the most to lose by non-performance, will bring to the fore a good quality of discipline and do a good job on inspection. Many past faults, whether from ignorance or carelessness, will be eliminated immediately by the requirement of registration and proof that a builder is competent in his work. We certainly will be looking at the items clause by clause and hearing the dialogue that takes place, but for the most part I thoroughly support the principle of the bill.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, my remarks will be quite brief, since in listening to the positions presented by the member for Wentworth and the member for Riverdale, and I must admit I agree with most of what they said.

There is one thing I want to really stress to the minister. I would hope that, regardless of the final form of this bill, that the people outside this Legislature, especially people who have never bought a house before—those who are not very sophisticated in the law and aren't very familiar with the whole process of home buying—will be made fully aware of the contents and provisions of this bill.

I think back to the Consumer Protection Act and how little publicity and attention has been given to that Act across this province. I think the publicity was minimal and abysmal. I would dare say if you asked 1,000 people in this province if they knew any of the provisions of that Act, my guess would be 90 to 95 per cent couldn't name one clause or one provision.

I would certainly hope with this bill, as I say, regardless of the final form, that the minister would make special provisions to

make sure the people in all regions of the province find out what's in this bill—what their rights are, what the provisions are, and what the procedures are. I would hope we would advertise it in all forms of media, not just the printed word. We should use radio, television, and even use displays to travel around the province to let potential home buyers know exactly what their rights are.

I think legislation can be good in itself, but if people aren't aware of the provisions of it, then the actual benefits are very limited. I would really stress that whatever the final form is, that the minister take this publicity approach into consideration.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I think at the outset I would like to express my gratitude to the member for Riverdale, who made quite clear to me something which was completely unclear during the debate. Because if one had come in just a little bit later and missed the last remarks of the member for Durham East, one could not have concluded other than that the New Democrats were going to oppose this bill. The member for Riverdale made it quite clear—

Mr. Moffatt: No, I didn't say that.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: —but he hasn't made me understand why; I simply don't

Mr. Renwick: You know very well. You understand perfectly.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I understand that they say there has to be a bill, and therefore they will approve it on second reading. They will approve in principle the bill that has been put forward to them. Then they say, through the member for Riverdale, that unless there are substantial and significant changes in this bill—and I think I'm using his exact words—they will vote against it on third reading.

Now, speaking for the government, I want to say this, something I think that has always been our principle in this Legislature. That is, when improvements can be made without destroying the principle of a bill, this government has always been amenable to amendments which will accomplish that.

Mr. Renwick: We welcome that statement.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I am quite prepared to see the amendments that the New Democrats are proposing to put forward. I just want to point out, though, that when the member for Durham East spoke and the member for Wentworth spoke and the member for Riverdale spoke, there was not one

word said in support of the principle of this bill. There was nothing but negatives all the way through their comments.

I must say that I do not share the jaundiced view of the small business sector and the building industry in this province, that seems to be expressed by the member for Wentworth, the member for Riverdale, the member for Brantford, etc.

We happen to feel that the people of Ontario are the best housed people in the world, and that has been accomplished through the efforts of the building industry. There has been no legislation whatsoever which has governed the quality of building other than the common law, because every buyer of a house has always had recourse through litigation if not satisfied with the quality; and the builders have met the needs of the people of this province.

I listened to the litany of the so-called improvements that the member for Riverdale would make to the real estate industry in this province if, as and when his party form the government, and I didn't hear any suggestion there whatsoever that the next sentence was going to be, "We will also reduce the cost of housing"—because every item that he mentioned would have nothing but an—

Mr. Renwick: We have already said that and you know that.

Mr. Samis: That is not within the scope of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: —inflationary effect on the cost of housing.

The member for Durham East has said the government is bringing this in late—and, of course, the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) did explain that to some extent.

Mr. Moffatt: He didn't explain it, he rationalized it.

[8:45]

Hon. Mr. Handleman: But I think there is some confusion and I want to clarify it. There was never any suggestion that the federal government was going to bring in a bill. What the federal government was trying to do was to bring the provinces, the consumers' associations and the industry together, to develop a uniform standard which would then be legislated by the provinces. Those meetings broke up in failure. Ontario is the only province which has brought in the kind of legislation that we think will provide the leadership in this country. Copies of our bill have already been requested by

other provinces so that they can look at them.

What you have in the other provinces of this country, Mr. Speaker, are voluntary plans run completely by the trade association of the builders in those provinces. That is not good enough for Ontario and I have made it quite clear to my colleagues in government and to the industry that we could not accept a voluntary plan as is instituted in the other provinces. We have here mandatory standards and mandatory registration—and I must say that I have more faith in the incentive of deregistration, the incentive of the cheque book which will require the builders to upgrade their standards.

The member for Wentworth said there is nothing in this bill which will require anybody to improve his standards of construction. Of course there is. The threat of being out of business is the incentive. They can be deregistered. We have provided appeal rights for anybody who is deregistered, but I think that is the ultimate incentive.

There has been suggestion that the warranty should be for 10 years. Here we have almost no experience in Canada with a five-year plan and we are already talking about 10 years. Again, I have no objection to 10 years. I don't know what five years is going to cost yet. The insurance business has tried to estimate and we will learn by experience how much it is going to cost in the price of a house for five-year protection. It is not one year. It is five years.

Mr. Deans: Give me some facts, Handleman. Give me some facts.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: One year for ordinary construction problems and four years for major structural defects.

We are told that Britain has two years. I should point out that Britain has a voluntary plan. There is no legislation in Britain that requires any warranty. They started off with one year; they decided to try two years. The experience has been bad and there's a simple straightforward reason. If you had a two-year warranty on ordinary cosmetic problems, as have been outlined by the member for Wentworth and the member for Durham East—

Mr. Deans: Ordinary cosmetic? What are you talking about—insulation is cosmetic?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The member for Wentworth wasn't here when we were talk-

ing about cosmetic problems. It was the member for Durham East.

Mr. Deans: What's cosmetic about insulation?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the member for Wentworth be quiet?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, we are talking about satisfaction, not major structural defects. We are talking about the kind of problem that can be corrected, and can be corrected quite simply without great expense. There has been no incentive to do that.

In Britain, the homeowner in buying his house knows that he has two years in which to report those. As was quite properly pointed out by many members, the homeowner is not an expert in construction. He does not understand the problems that may arise and as a result he tends to defer his complaints until the end of the warranty period: "I can live with that." He doesn't know that it may develop into a major structural defect.

The people in England have suggested stay away from a two-year warranty, go back to one. Now having gone to two, they are having great difficulty of course in backing away from it, but they now recognize it as counter-productive. It does not really assist anyone to have a two-year warranty. The one-year warranty plus the extended major structural defect warranty is the one that we have settled on, the one that most of the other provinces are using on a voluntary basis, and the one that the British suggest we stick to.

There have been suggestions that the building code is not a satisfactory set of standards, that there are defects in the building code. The building code has been in effect in this province since April of this year. We have appointed an advisory council on the building code on which are represented a large variety of skills—engineers, builders, manufacturers of products, building inspectors. Almost every organization in this province which has an interest in building is represented on this council and we expect them to monitor the code, to tell us where the defects are and what corrections have to be made. Because as most members know the code is made up of regulations primarily and we can change, we can be flexible in the code and we are prepared to be that way, but we have—

Mr. Renwick: And the enforcement is decentralized across the province.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Of course the enforcement of the code is decentralized, as enforcement of this Act will be.

I think it was the member for Wentworth North who mentioned that he hoped the caveat emptor principle is still in effect in this province. It is our philosophy that caveat emptor should apply where it is possible for the consumer to exercise that kind of caution.

An hon. member: That's a good point.

Mr. Renwick: I think we should fight the election on the caveat emptor.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: If the consumer is not able to exercise that kind of caution, then we suggest that legislation should provide the necessary parameters within which he can obtain the protection. We do not feel that the consumer is a completely helpless being in the marketplace, where he has to be led around by the hand and shown the way to go as the member for Cornwall suggested. Certainly we intend to publicize this. I am sure the member for Cornwall would be the first one to object if I appeared on channel 8 in Cornwall night after night promoting the legislation because he would say we were using it for political propaganda.

Mr. Moffatt: You would be.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I hope to have a budget which will enable me to publicize this legislation because I think it is good. It is pioneer legislation. It will be developed as time goes by and as we find the flaws in it. There is no question about that. We will be coming up later tonight—I expect immediately after the vote on this bill—with amendments to another bill which is of very recent vintage. It is pioneer legislation to which we are bringing forward amendments to improve it, and we always do that. As long as this party is in government we will always do it.

The member for Wentworth doesn't seem to understand that the incentive to the builder to upgrade his standards is there in the deregistration.

Mr. Deans: I understand. You don't care about the individual buyer. You want to protect the builder. Why don't you tell the truth?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: He talks about accountability. Of course the council is

accountable to government. The very clause that says the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall designate a non-profit corporation is the protection.

Mr. Deans: Who are you going to designate?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We are going to designate the HUDAC council which is now in place.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Wentworth has spoken on second reading. He will have an opportunity during clause by clause.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that in the Act anything that is designated—and I don't know whether this is coining a word or not—can be de-designated. The government has the right to take away the designation from any corporation which is named under this Act and replace it with another one. So there is no problem whatsoever. If it doesn't work out, and I have every confidence it will, the government has the ultimate authority to change the rules. Then we will have no objection and no hesitation whatsoever in doing that.

One of the things that doesn't seem to be taken into account is the cost to the homeowner.

Mr. Deans: That's where a few thousand others have been robbed.

Mr. Shore: Does the member for Wentworth trust his mother-in-law?

Mr. Deans: She's dead.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: We can insist that every building that is built in this province be absolutely letter perfect, that there not be a single thing wrong with it. The principle that right as soon as one moves in there should be satisfaction or money back, which has been proposed so forcefully by the member for Riverdale, could not apply in this industry; it simply cannot.

Mr. Renwick: Why not?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: When one cancels or rescinds a contract in the real estate industry it is like upsetting a deck of cards. One card falls and they all fall.

Mr. Deans: Don't be silly.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: The transaction is one in a series of transactions. The right of rescission—

Mr. Renwick: That's ridiculous.

Mr. Drea: What about that crackpot thing you put in on Bill 55? You know what happens when you do that.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I don't think there is any point in belabouring our adherence to the principle of this bill because I understand there will be a number of amendments. I am looking forward to seeing the nature of those amendments because if they will improve the bill, if they will not destroy the principle of self-regulation that is incorporated in this bill, then obviously we will give them serious consideration. I am sure all members of the House will regardless of which side they sit on. If they are trying to destroy the principle of the bill, then I must say Mr. Speaker, we will have to accept the negative vote of the New Democrats on third reading.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for committee of the whole House?

Agreed.

TRAVEL INDUSTRY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Handleman moved second reading of Bill 98, An Act to amend the Travel Industry Act, 1974.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to just make a few brief introductory remarks. Bill 98 results from some of the comments that were made during the examination of my estimates very recently. I think it is an indication of how quickly we were able to respond to criticisms which are made from time to time. I made a commitment during the estimates that, if there was something wrong with the Travel Industry Act, I would not hesitate to bring forward amendments. I think I have carried out that commitment by introducing this bill.

Mr. Moffatt: If you absolutely will, you have to.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: In essence, there are two major changes which are incorporated in this bill. One of them permits a travel agent to claim compensation where he himself has compensated the traveller who bought a trip from him which was not delivered by a travel wholesaler. He has passed on the funds to the travel whole-

saler and he has dealt at arm's length and in good faith with that wholesaler. We have always intended that that be the case.

The hon. member for Riverdale mentioned, coincidentally, section 13 is an amendment to section 13 of the original Act which was discussed at great length in the Legislature on the original debate, and in our view the amendment reflects the intention of the original Act.

We are also strengthening the Act to permit our ministry to seize any assets which are apparent to us during the course of an investigation. We have found that quite often we conduct the investigation and by the time it's completed and we have found that some devious actions have taken place, there are no assets which can be taken to offset some of the compensation out of the fund.

What we are doing in the final substantive section of the bill is to change some of the regulations which were made under the bill; because those regulations had dates attached to them, in order to ensure that they are valid, that there is no question of litigation on them, we are asking the Legislature to make them valid retroactively upon approval of this bill.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, we welcome these changes in the Act. The minister was correct in that the items were raised during his estimates, but I think it was obvious to many members on this side of the House, who have had contact with not only the individuals who were affected, who lost out on various tours in the pre-Christmas time, and in talking with a number of the travel agents across the province, that there were some problems with this legislation.

We welcome the cleaning up of the Act, so to speak, because it now protects not only the consumer but the travel agent, I think, as we said during estimates, that the travel agent, who is a frontliner, so to speak, in the industry, when he was saying to his customers: "I'm sorry, I can't reimburse you, you have to go to the government for that." The client just couldn't understand why not, when he had paid that \$200 or \$300 across the counter.

I have some questions with regard to the bill and with the regulations that are attached, some concerns. We would like to see it go to committee at a future point in time so we could discuss them in detail and possibly make amendments if appropriate. I'd like to go through them very briefly, if I

may, Mr. Speaker, to give the minister some idea as to my thinking and the thinking of my colleagues so that possibly he can answer some of them; because some of them involve federal as opposed to provincial jurisdiction. As well, he possibly can bring in his own amendments if he feels he is prepared to do so.

The first concern I have, and I just happened to read the Canadian Transport Commission air carrier regulations, I was amazed to find that section 40, item 9 actually forbids air carriers from selling tours of any kind. Yet as I was travelling down from Thunder Bay to Toronto, I happened to see a sign at the Air Canada wicket, that stated: "Try us first." Also in the terminal in Toronto, there is indication they have tours. My original concern was we are insuring the agent and the wholesalers, making them contribute to the fund, yet the air carriers, in effect, in the Blue Vista situation were the ones who pulled out. While there were some problems with Blue Vista itself, that brought about the eventual situation which has led us to tonight. I was wondering why the air carriers couldn't contribute as well. However, with that regulation I've just come across, I'm going to ask why they are offering tours and what this government can do to prevent that in the Province of Ontario.

I think one of the concerns that has been brought to light because of the Judy Rea incident is that the consumers—and, when we were speaking about the last bill, the member for Cornwall (Mr. Samis) spoke to it very well—the consumers weren't aware exactly what it was all about. The industry knew, or at least the full-time employees and the owners knew, about the regulations because the ministry is very concise in making sure they do. In fact the regulations state that you must display your certificate or what have you. But the consumer really doesn't know; he doesn't see the little piece of paper off to the side of the office; he's in there for a particular tour and he's more concerned about where he's going than what regulations they offer.

I would wonder, Mr. Speaker, as within this ministry in terms of the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario, which by regulation requires that all those establishments that serve liquor—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Would you keep the private conversations down? It's difficult for the speaker who has the floor.

[9:00]

Mr. Angus: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Liquor Licence Board of Ontario regulations require all establishments that sell liquor under their auspices to display prominently a sign stating, "Licensed by the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario." I think something similar with a licensed travel agent or a licensed wholesaler would be a more appropriate way of making the consumer aware that "Holy cow! There's a licensing thing here. This guy's got the sign out." Possibly there would be another travel agent in the community who, for whatever reason—and it's spoken to in the regulations—would not be a licensed travel agent or a participant in the fund. Perhaps the minister could give thought to making some kind of change that way.

Also, a lot of travel agents participate in group meetings and go out, in effect to sell their product. They have a number of people come in, and they put on a slide show of the Bahamas, say. It's put on by such-and-such a travel agency, and there is a representative there; it's obviously a means of promotion. If those individuals who are going out and doing that kind of thing were required by law or by regulation to show in some way or to state that they are licensed representatives of a licensed travel agency, then the consumer once again would be aware of the situation.

Another thing—and again this is where we come into the federal-provincial jurisdiction—that bothered a lot of people about Blue Vista, through Judy Rea, aside from the whole question about whether she was a duly constituted employee of that agency, was the fact that they had tickets of a licensed air carrier in their hands. I feel that there should be some responsibility by the airlines to ensure that whoever they are supplying their blank tickets has an ability to meet their particular concerns and the concerns of the consumers.

Further, in terms of consumer awareness, on the outside cover of the ticket—not the folder, but the ticket itself—we could require by regulation or by legislation, that there be an empty box with writing underneath it, saying "The above agent or wholesaler is a licensed travel agent by the Province of Ontario, and in the event of any default of this tour or this ticket, this agent will reimburse you." The ministry then would provide for some kind of stamp, such as they have for legal documents, that would allow that travel agent to do it. In that way the consumer once again would be aware of the situation.

Another concern that I have follows out of the Judy Rea situation—and it's unfortunate that this lady and her clients have been the examples, so to speak, that have brought about certain portions of this legislation—is the fact that, by this legislation or possibly by the regulations, there is no appeal to the minister or to the cabinet. We've seen the problems that have been created with the directors of the fund—and it's excellent timing that the minister was able to change the makeup of that board, because in the regulations he provided for a board to be established June 1; I don't know whether it's a new board, and I'd like to find out tonight whether the minister has replaced various members of the board so that they would handle the Act in a different way than it has been handled.

I still think that there is a need for an appeal, because this is an Act under the Legislature of Ontario. It is an Act that has been enacted by the representatives of the people, the consumers. After Sept. 1, when the Lieutenant Governor in Council has appointed another board or reappointed the board—I assume that from then on it may be self-appointing, as was this one, and I'd like some comments on that—there has to be that right for the consumer to go one step higher. As it is now, the consumer doesn't even seem to have the option of appearing before the board to present his case.

Another concern which has been sparked by the situation is the integration of some of the air carriers into the travel agency business. Again, section 41 states that there can't be that integration and yet Nordair, I guess it was, just got a slap on the hands for its involvement. I'm wondering if the Province of Ontario can do something to require, as part of this licensing, that there is not even part ownership by an air carrier of a particular wholesaler or travel agent.

I don't know. I'll have to leave it to the minister's legal people to advise him on that one.

I think too, that if there is some way this Act can be changed to provide that—for instance, say I went out and bought a ticket—one ticket—for my brother-in-law or a friend, because I was getting on the same charter.

Mr. Haggerty: One way?

Mr. Angus: One way, yes, for my brother-in-law. One could say that I, in effect, was an unlicensed travel agent because I sold him the tour, but I think if a person holds a valid ticket, if it has been prepared by a

licensed travel agent or prepared by a licensed wholesaler, that should constitute a legitimate claim on the travel industry fund.

That's still federal? I'm sorry, I can't believe that one. In fact, under the present regulations this ministry requires proof—

Mr. Drea: Lose your luggage and you will find out that ticket is federal.

Mr. Angus: Okay, but the minister and the government can say, in order to be reimbursed under the travel fund—Okay, the minister has already said you have to show the ticket, but if that ticket was issued by a licensed travel agent or a licensed wholesaler then that should constitute a legitimate claim on the fund.

Mr. Drea: Swear an affidavit, it is simple.

Mr. Angus: We thought it was pretty simple too, but all those people who worked with Judy Rea have got legitimate tickets. Okay?

Mr. Drea: No, that's a bit more involved.

Mr. Angus: Okay, you'll have the opportunity to reply later on.

Mr. Speaker, while I realize that the Judy Rea situation will be resolved, hopefully within due course of time, in the event that the travel industry's board of trustees find—and I hope they won't and I don't believe that they should find this way—that Judy Rea was not an authorized employee of that firm there should be some way of reimbursing those 50 or so consumers who, in good faith, purchased a tour through her, as what they thought was a representative of Blue Vista. In the spirit of the legislation and in the spirit of protecting the consumer the ministry should find a way to reimburse them.

One final concern I have—two final concerns, sorry. Under the regulations the minister provides for a travel agent to give two years' written notice that he or she is opting out of the fund. That scares me. That scares me because I thought the intent was that this was to protect all consumers and if you allow an agent to opt out—that's right on the last page—then you don't have complete protection for the consumers. How are they to know, unless some of my other recommendations are accepted, that the person is not a licensed travel agent or travel wholesaler?

I'm just trying to find the particular item. Anyway, the other final concern I have is that on the front cover of the regulations—and incidentally, Mr. Speaker, the members of this House are very appreciative of receiving these regulations. I have spoken in

the past about the need to have the regulations in order to debate the bills. We would love to have the regulations all inclusive within the bill, but I have lost that one once and this week I don't think we need that kind of hassle, so I will wait till next round.

You say: "The Lieutenant Governor in Council, the undersigned, has the honour to recommend that the appended regulations be made under the Travel Industry Act, 1974;" and on the second page it says: "Regulation to amend Ontario regulation;" etc., etc.; Okay. In No. 1: "Subsection 9 of section 15," etc., "as amended by subsection 1 of section 2 of the Ontario regulation is revoked."

My apologies, I was misreading it. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to the minister's comments.

Mr. Cunningham: The Liberal Party will favour this legislation. I think it is appropriate.

The only comment I would make about the industry as a whole, is that possibly we might take a look at making the licences a little more restrictive or requiring some form of endorsement kind of participation with the airlines. I think the airlines, as the member for Fort William very well and very appropriately pointed out, the airlines should share a sense of responsibility to this end and recognize that such participation would be the cost of doing business.

I think this amendment will protect people from the very few unscrupulous agents who might exist within the province at this time and I am sure will serve the people of Ontario very well.

Just a couple of questions, very briefly Mr. Speaker; I am just wondering if it would be fair to all members of the industry to pay at the same rate. For those members of the travel agency business who operate, the larger ones or maybe the ones that have operated for some length of time, it would be my hope that possibly you might consider some sort of lower payment for them. I am not sure if it is fair that everybody pay at the same rate.

Other than that the only other question I have is I am just wondering if there is some provision here to protect the fund against a contrived type of arrangement between an agent and a packager for an anticipated bankruptcy? That's the only confusion I have on that part.

Other than that, Mr. Speaker, I would commend you for moving as expeditiously as you have in this regard and I hope this will serve the people of Ontario well.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to express my appreciation to both members who spoke on this bill. I think they have given us some food for thought. I should point out to the member for Fort William, of course, the specific case he mentioned has not yet been adjudicated by the compensation board and therefore really should not be commented on here.

Mr. Angus: I was saying that in case the board found against Judy Rea.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Yes, the question of qualification of that particular situation is still in limbo. I have suggested to the board they seek legal advice rather than try to determine on their own what the standing of this woman is, whether or not she was an employee of the tour operator or an unregistered travel agent; but I don't think we could have it both ways.

While on the one hand the member for Fort William stressed the importance of making it known to the consumer that the person he is dealing with is in fact registered under the Act, and we agree with that because there is a regulation that says the sign has to be displayed prominently, unfortunately there is nothing in the Act which says the sign shall not be surrounded by a variety of other signs which say Sabena, Air Canada, etc.—you know, they sort of tend to drown the sign. I don't think we can interfere to that extent.

We would like to see the sign more prominently displayed, and particularly I think in the advertising in the newspapers and magazines, to show a registration number, or somewhere in the advertising show significantly that they are registered under the Travel Industry Act and this is protection for the consumer. In my view it's a good marketing technique and I don't know why they haven't used it, because it seemed to me that the traveller would have more confidence if he was aware of the fact the person he is dealing with is registered.

[9:15]

With regard to the federal regulations, and this is a very difficult field. I want to point out that only the regional carriers are prohibited from operating tours. This does not apply to Air Canada, CP Air or foreign airlines. We are talking about airlines like Nordair, Transair, Quebec Air, Eastern Provincial, and people of that nature. They are not permitted to operate tours but they do control their ticket stock. They are the people who must account for the ticket stock to

the federal authorities. They can give their ticket stock to anyone. The fact that it ends up in the hands of a consumer doesn't necessarily mean there has been any amount paid into the travel fund.

Our test for payment of compensation must always be whether or not the person was dealing with a member of the industry who had contributed to the fund and therefore in some way had contributed towards the compensation. As long as the airlines are permitted to control their ticket stock and are not required to adhere to federal regulations which require that trips be paid for and that the money be there before they depart, and before they pick up their passengers, then there are going to be problems such as those we encountered in the case of Blue Vista, where the airline overextends its line of credit and then suddenly pulls the rug out from under the tour operator for whatever reasons.

I am not here to try to attribute any blame to anyone but they did that. As a result, the compensation fund, the agents for this province had to step in and move very quickly, which they did. To their credit the agents and the industry moved in very quickly to ensure that most people got their holidays. Whether they got the holiday they actually wanted or not is another matter and something we are going to devote some thought to in the future.

With regard to the status of the board, the board which was appointed last year, in our view, has served the province. They have developed a number of guidelines which are very valuable to us and will be serving out their term. Some members of that board have indicated to us they are prepared to serve again. When the legislation is passed, we will be appointing a new board. The Act does say on or after June 1. The term of office of the present board can be deemed to extend to the end of June so that we are not in any great urgent need of a new board at this time.

The question of appeal is one on which I have thought there was something lacking in the Act. I certainly don't feel that the appeal should be to the ministry. I feel if there is going to be an appeal from a separate independent board—and that's what the compensation board has to be and we are continuing that independence—then it should be to another independent tribunal. The ones I would have in mind would be the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal which handles appeals under the Motor Vehicle

Dealers Act, the Real Estate and Business Brokers Act and so on. We certainly ought to give some thought to that.

I don't believe it's possible for the provincial government to legislate divorcement between the carriers and the tour operators. In fact, the member for Wentworth North suggested that perhaps we should give the carriers the right to endorse the agents and the tour operators. I don't think we could accept that either because it would mean many foreign airlines would be in the position of endorsing somebody to operate in Ontario. We are not suggesting that we would accept that suggestion from the member for Wentworth North.

We are studying with the industry the question of improved qualifications and criteria for entry into the industry or to remain in the industry. I don't think it's possible to grandfather everybody in the industry while at the same time setting up tough new rules for entering into the industry. In my view, that is the kind of protection to those who are in the industry that really should not be brought in by this government. Certainly we are interested in upgrading their qualifications, improving criteria and developing stricter guidelines for registration into the industry.

I would like to comment on that one point about the two-year opting-out period because our understanding of the regulation is that anybody who is in the business now can give notice that he intends to leave the business but he's bound for two years to contribute to the fund. That's all it is. It is to keep people from running away from their obligations to the fund without any notice. There is a two-year period which also will develop a certain amount of caution among people who are entering the business. You can't just be in and out overnight. You are bound for a certain period of time. If you are going to come into this industry, be serious about it and make it a career.

There was one other point. I don't know whether the member for Fort William understands our purpose in distributing the regulations—and I am glad he is pleased about it—but it was simply because the Act refers to the regulations. We didn't think the Act could be debated with any intelligence if you didn't have the regulations, which are a very integral part of the Act.

On the other hand, the Legislature cannot, Mr. Speaker, I put to you with respect, amend the regulations. Certainly, we are

prepared to listen to suggestions; and I have heard some very good ones here tonight. I hope there will be some faith that the government will look at the suggestions, will study Hansard, and where we feel there has to be amendments to the regulations, we will make them without any hesitation at all. But if there are to be any amendments in committee, because I expect we will be going there, they will have to be to the Act and not to the regulations.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall this bill be ordered for third reading? Committee of the whole House?

Agreed.

PROVINCIAL PARKS ACT

Hon. Mr. Bernier moved second reading of Bill 104, an Act to amend the Provincial Parks Act.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I have some opening remarks.

The purpose of this bill is threefold, as I said when I introduced it. Firstly, section 1 of the bill will update and enlarge the definition section of the Provincial Parks Act. There are new definitions of the terms "assistant superintendent, conservation officer, master plan, park warden and superintendent." The changes are housekeeping in nature, and intended to facilitate the administration of the Act.

Secondly, section 2 of the bill creates a new section to the Act, section 7a, and gives legislative authority to the concept of a provincial park master plan. Subsection (1) of the new section 7a authorizes the minister to prepare a master plan in respect to any existing or proposed provincial park. Subsection (2) of the section authorizes periodic reviews and amendments of master plan. The term "master plan" itself is defined in clause (c) of the new section 1 of the Act. The master plan embodies official government policy prepared with respect to the development of a particular park.

Finally, section 3 of the bill will update and redefine the classes of person who are to have the same power and the authority as a member of the Ontario Provincial Police, as provided by the present section 12 of the Act. The proposed section effects no change in principle.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I only want to make two comments with respect to the bill. Let me deal with them in reverse order. The bill, as the minister has indicated, covers in the first three sections three more or less separate matters.

One of the matters is to give park officials the power and authority of a member of the Ontario Provincial Police force. That is, they become provincial park peace officers by the enactment of this particular section. And this would apply to the district manager, the superintendent, assistant superintendent, and a park warden and conservation officer.

I have no specific objection to the section as such. Strangely enough, over the course of time, the Criminal Code has eroded the power of the private citizen with respect to the enforcement of law in favour of the peace officer. The peace officer as specifically defined under the Criminal Code, includes officers of various police forces charged with the administration of justice. And, of course, a member of the Ontario Provincial Police has the authority of a peace officer under the Criminal Code.

So, by indirection, what we are saying is that in a provincial park, these particular persons within that park have the authority of peace officers under the Criminal Code. I can't object to that principle; it has existed before and there is no real problem about it. I think all of us would feel it is essential that that particular power be extended to these particular officers.

I am, however, somewhat concerned whenever that extension is given that it be very clear as to the person who has it. I note in section 1 of the Act that while the superintendent is defined, and while the assistant superintendent is defined, and while the park warden is defined, and while the conservation officer is defined as to who that person is, I think by omission more than anything else there is no specific definition of the district manager. There is in the explanatory note, of course, the reference that a district manager is defined by a particular section of the Ministry of Natural Resources Act, which is part of the legislation of the province.

I do think it is worth while putting the bill in committee of the whole House simply for the purpose of adding in section 1 of the bill a definition of district manager, so it is very clear as to who that particular person is. It is one of those perhaps oversights, perhaps matters which are considered unnecessary, but where you are giving persons the powers of a peace officer under the Criminal Code, I think it's very important

that the Provincial Parks Act contain the definition, by reference to the other Act, of the person who is going to exercise that authority.

My second concern is with respect to master plans. I am not skilled in or able to deal with all of the problems which have arisen in respect of the development of master plans for parks in the Province of Ontario. Many of my colleagues, who unfortunately cannot be here tonight, were very much involved in the question of master plans for Quetico Park and for Algonquin Park and of course my colleague, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), is now in the chair so he can't speak to that question.

But master plans as such are extremely important and I think that the lesson that all of us have learned, both with respect to master plans and to all other forms of growth encroachment by governmental authority on what many people consider their private rights, require immense input from the public with respect to the way in which plans are developed. I am very much concerned that in a bill such as this, which is introducing a new section under section 2 of the bill, which provides that the minister "may prepare a master plan in respect of any provincial park or proposed provincial park" and that he may review it from time to time and make amendments to it, that there isn't the least gesture in the bill towards public participation in any way in the evolving of that plan.

I must say that I would have assumed that when we are defining in this Act a master plan to mean "a programme and policy or any part thereof, prepared from time to time in respect of a provincial or a proposed provincial park and includes the maps, text and other material describing such programme and policy," I am very much concerned that there isn't a clear indication in this bill that the government would consider as an essential part of the enactment of such a provision, that there be specific and clearcut arrangements made for public participation in the development, right from the very beginning, of a master plan, not only for the existing provincial parks but certainly for any proposed provincial parks.

An immense number of people have shared the same common end which has often been stated by the minister, that we must maximize the use of land for the common use of people in the Province of Ontario through the instrumentality of provincial parks. But the whole of the development of those plans, the enunciation of the policies with respect to

them and the achievement of the objectives that we want to achieve through the provincial park system have to be done in close co-operation with all people throughout the province who have an interest in them.

I cannot, and I wish I could, speak with the concern and the intimate detail and the knowledge and the emotional concern that other members of my caucus do speak with from time to time and have spoken with about Algonquin Park. I just don't know why the minister would bring in a bill and provide that he can prepare the plans without any reference to that kind of participation; I'm almost affronted by it.

We're not going to oppose the bill, on second reading, but I do want the minister to understand that we would anticipate and expect in his remarks on the closing of the debate on this bill that he address himself specifically to that particular problem. We would also hope and expect that he would be receptive, either on his own initiative or in response to initiatives which could be taken by our caucus on this matter, to insist upon the prerequisite of public participation in the discussion and the involvement of those plans right from their original inception.

So far as I know the Environmental Impact Act does not apply to proposed provincial parks; so far as I know there is immense concern. We would be very chary of granting this kind of authority. We are always prepared, of course, why we never can quite understand when we do it and reflect on it in the sombre light of after effects, we are prepared to grant good faith to the minister on this occasion to indicate what he's going to do. But I want him to know that we consider the question of public involvement and public participation to be an essential ingredient in the development of any effective plans for any of the provincial parks or proposed provincial parks.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I must say that it's unfortunate that you're in the chair tonight, I'm sure, I'm positive you would have done a much better job on this bill than your colleague from Riverdale.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I doubt that very much.

Mr. Reid: I'm positive you would have, sir.

We're concerned, also, with some of the matters in the bill. In a way it is almost a completely innocuous bill and I wonder why, except for giving in section 3 of the bill, the quasi police—or rather quasi police pow-

ers to these people. Obviously this is in response to the rowdiness that we've had in provincial parks. I'd like the minister just to comment as to what actions have been taken against these—

Mr. Renwick: I think the response to rowdiness is the rewriting of an existing section.

Mr. Reid: It is, but it's to clarify the whole thing; and if the member for Riverdale would give me time I was going to get to that. Because really, one wonders what the—

Mr. Renwick: We haven't all that much time, you know, life is too short.

Mr. Reid: You went on for 15 minutes saying nothing as usual. Now it's my turn to go on for the same amount of time.

Mr. Breithaupt: Hopefully to say something of more value.

Mr. Reid: I had to listen to you and you'll have to listen to me.

Mr. Renwick: Why do you repeat what I said?

Mr. Reid: I am not going to repeat that somebody else would have done a better job; on which we all agreed with you, incidentally, for the first time in a long time.

The point is that one wonders why the bill was brought in; in any case we can't see any reason for opposing it.

I'm concerned, also with section 2, in regard to the master plan. As I understand it, the minister, again, already has the authority to draw up a master plan. I'm concerned, Mr. Speaker, particularly with the way in which these master plans are drawn up. You and I, Mr. Speaker, have been on committees, land-use committees in northern Ontario—I think I sat, at one time, on four or five of them; I haven't heard from any of those committees lately. The process of drawing up these master plans is a weird and wonderful thing to behold.

My concern particularly, and I know this isn't really in the bill, is what happens to them once they are drawn up. We've had a master plan in Algonquin Park; we had a committee of the Legislature—and others, it wasn't a committee of the Legislature—look at Algonquin Park; we had a committee looking at Quetico. All of those are not in place, the recommendations and the master plans that were derived from those, as I understand it, have not been accepted by the minister. I, too, am concerned. Section 2(2) reads: "The

minister may review a master plan from time to time and make amendments thereto."

I agree that these plans should be flexible, and obviously the minister must have the authority and responsibility to amend them, but I too am concerned about the kind of participation or the way in which they will be amended, because there's no process that's spelled out here for the public to have any input into how the plan should be amended, let alone talking about how the master plan should be drawn up in the first place.

One other comment that I would like to make is that the ministry, in its plans for provincial parks, seems to have some concept that a provincial park can only be of a certain minimum size to be successful. I don't know if that's an economic matter or otherwise, but I would point out to the minister that some of his most successful parks in terms of user-days are much smaller than the guidelines that the ministry is using for the size of provincial parks.

We too will support the bill, but we would be interested in the mechanism that the minister is going to use, both in drawing up master plans as far as public participation goes and in making amendments to those plans.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I want to concur with the previous two speakers and to endorse the principle of the bill. Also, like the other two speakers, I have to question the matter of provincial park officers acting as police officers, or wearing two hats, particularly when I look at section 1(g), which states: "'Public lands' means lands belonging to Her Majesty in right of Ontario, whether or not covered with water."

As I interpret that, I presume that park officers might even be enforcing speed regulations along provincial highways. That concerns me quite a bit, because I understand the ministry at present is short of staff in terms of game wardens. I suppose I can relate to the situation in the Niagara district where there's a shortage of officers in that particular area to enforce the regulations relating to the Game and Fish Act.

I am just wondering, when they wear the two hats like this, whether it isn't going to create further problems within the ministry because of the short staff situation. Since the Ontario Provincial Police are policing many of these areas, this should be as much their responsibility as that of the officers of the Ministry of Natural Resources relating to the Game and Fish Act.

The other matter that concerns me is the provincial master plan for parks. I know the difficulties that the minister has had in the past in terms of Algonquin Park and Quetico Park, as was mentioned by the other members, but I question the statement in the minister's opening remarks when he said he would obtain legislative authority in much of this particular section that relates to the parks.

I recall that back in the 1960s the Ministry of Lands and Forests, as it was at that time, had around \$20 million set aside for the purchase of certain park lands throughout the Province of Ontario. Even though I was a new member in 1967, I found that the Legislature wasn't aware where the minister was going to spend the money at that particular time. Since there is going to be a certain amount of money set aside for this purpose under this Act, I think it should be brought before the Legislature and that there should be some dialogue with members of the Legislature about some of the sites that are to be chosen for future provincial parks. I think there's just too much left in the hands of the minister to decide where some of these parks should be located.

I hesitate to relate back to the days of 1967 and 1968 when the Minister of Lands and Forests at that particular time made an announcement of a particular provincial park that was supposed to be located somewhere along the shores of Lake Erie between Fort Erie and Windsor—I think one particular area was in the former county of Welland—but to this day that park has not come about on the shores of Lake Erie, where there is a shortage of access to Lake Erie and a shortage of recreation areas. There's Selkirk Provincial Park but it's not one of the better swimming areas along the shores of Lake Erie. I suggest that more public input should be taken into consideration when the minister goes out and makes up his mind that he's going to purchase a particular site for a provincial park. Hopefully, the minister will, in deciding where a park should be located, come back and consult with members of the Legislature about what they think about where a provincial park should be located. There is a shortage of parkland along the shores of Lake Erie and hopefully the government will move in that direction.

We've seen the problem at Rondeau Park, where there is a problem at the present time trying to set up a master plan for that particular park. Finally, the minister did bring

in public participation. I hope it's going to be satisfactory to all the persons in that particular area, and I think it will be because the public has participated in that plan. Without public participation, then I think the minister is still going to be in hot water in many instances.

We support the bill in principle with the few reservations and the comments I've made here. I hope the minister will consider some of them.

Mr. Foulds: I have just a couple of brief comments on the bill. In section 3, it strikes me that the minister is on the verge of issuing a press release, based on this section, because he indicated that somehow he was broadening the powers to cope with the problem of hooliganism in the provincial parks, in response to some comments by the member for Rainy River. Yet, as I understand it, really all the section does is include the new definitions of personnel within the ministry. There isn't any real expansion. Perhaps that can be clarified when the minister sums up. It seems to me also that the problem is not so much punitive in nature but somehow needs to be avoided and prevented, and that may have more to do with the access and the admittance to provincial parks under certain conditions.

The second comment I have has to do with section 2, the business of master plans and so on, and I have been involved in the committee in northwestern Ontario. I think it would do the minister and the ministry a great service if we had, before the Act actually was proclaimed, the regulations that outline the process of devising the master plan published for all to see. I would like to take this a step further, because it seems to me that we must have more than master plans. I am in favour of the idea of development of master plans for provincial parks because I think it is the only way we can develop a meaningful management strategy of the park, but surely that principle then applies to the whole province. We should in fact be developing a master plan of the provincial parks for the entire province so that we know where the development is going to take place and we know what kind of development and we have a balance of the kinds of parks, whether they serve families and overnight camping, whether they be wilderness parks or whether they're the various categories that we have.

It seems to me that what we really need to get onto in the province and we need to have tabled in this Legislature, so that the public can be aware of it and have input on

a province-wide basis, is a master plan for the provincial parks of the province. I think that that would go a long step toward a rational development of a park policy for the entire province. The government might, if that were put forward in a public way, even get its friends at the federal level to determine what kind of national parks they were developing within the Province of Ontario, because I think those two things should also be inter-related and intermeshed.

[9:45]

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I don't intend to be lengthy at all but I do want to speak on the two items that almost everyone else who has partaken in this debate has talked about. The first one is the master plan.

The minister is familiar with the master plan that was drawn up with a tremendous amount of public participation back in my own community when the ministry decided to purchase Peach Island and develop it into one of the outstanding provincial parks in the province. The input there was not only from members of the council but the public as a whole had the opportunity to make comments and suggestions to the ministry.

However, in spite of what has taken place in the past there has been no action on the part of the ministry to fulfill the master plan. I am afraid that even though we may draw up master plans for specific parks in the area, financial restraints and other reasons may be given for the non-fulfilment of a province-wide parks policy. I hope the minister doesn't back down on the one on Peach Island and that he seriously thinks of following through with it so that at least it could be programmed and eventually come to fruition.

There is another park planned for the area and that is Tremblay Beach park. I would suggest to the minister that he start working on it because it has been under water now for the last two or three years ever since the high water has affected the lakes system. He should look and see what was done on the American side of Lake St. Clair where infill was taken in from Lake St. Clair in the winter months. The recreation area was developed in that fashion—working in the winter months, bringing in the sand on the bottom and filling in the parkland so that it would not be under water when the spring came around.

I think the idea of the master plan is sort of basic to development of a parks policy, but just as the previous speaker made mention we have to work in consort with not only the federal authorities but also the municipal

authorities who are likewise developing parks within their own bounds. So it is a three-level-of-government participation that is going to come and will bring about an ideal type of parks plan that we all envisage for the Province of Ontario.

The other item is the one giving the district manager, superintendent and assistant superintendent, parks warden and conservation officer the authority of a provincial police force. I would suggest to the minister that if they are going to have that authority that they do have some type of insignia or some way so that the public could easily identify them with that authority, otherwise by their wearing the forest green or the grey the respect for the various parks officials may be downgraded. We don't want to see that happen, because in the interests of better recreation facilities and the enjoyment of our parks the various officials must be respected by the public, otherwise the public will not have the full enjoyment of the park system they are entitled to.

Mr. Ferrier: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few comments about this bill. As far as section 3 is concerned we all know that there have been some incidents of rowdyism in the parks and it reached something of a crisis a year or so ago. I know that officials in your ministry felt that the system working in California, where the rangers had constable authority, should be adopted here in Ontario. I believe this has been taking place in our parks in the last couple of years. Certain of these people have in fact had the authority of a constable and when problems have developed they have been able to move in fairly quickly and to take appropriate action.

I believe, on occasion, that some of the park personnel have been manhandled but I don't think to any great degree. Nevertheless, we deplore that, but we hope that in giving him this authority you are also giving him some kind of training in this type of work; that is needed.

I think out in some of our parks, somewhat removed from the built-up areas, it takes a little while for OPPs to get there and the problem needs to be handled right away. So I agree with this action, but I have this one reservation to which my friend the member for Erie made reference, and on which a number of the people in the fish and wildlife management areas in northern Ontario in particular have expressed concern. You made a big hullabaloo a year ago about increasing your budget in fish and wildlife management

and adding to the number of conservation officers in this province, I think some 25 or more—or was it 100? I don't just recall the figure. You gave them this authority, supposedly to police the Fish and Wildlife Act; and what happened? You put them in the parks for the summer, and there really was very little extra law enforcement of our fish and game laws.

There has been some dissatisfaction amongst the people in my riding, and I believe in the whole group in the anglers and hunters federation and throughout the north. So with this reservation, I would think this principle is okay; but we want to see the job that the conservation officers are hired to do done properly and not have them taken away from that job to operate as constables in the parks all summer.

I think the point made by my colleague the member for Riverdale is a valid one; the minister should have the authority, of course, to go ahead and make master plans for our provincial parks, but I think he should make adequate provision for input from the public. He has set up a number of advisory committees, the Act that establishes his ministry gives him that authority. I would hope in most cases that he would set up advisory committees of the general public to hear representations about the uses that should be made of the parks within the areas where they live; they have some commitment to their own recreation and to the development of their area. I think it would be a very sad thing if the minister arbitrarily, listening to the civil servants, went ahead and imposed a master plan on parks without providing adequate input by the public in the area.

As far as planning of new parks is concerned, there has been a vehicle in place, the strategic land use committee, but they haven't really accomplished too much in my part of the province. I don't think they have had too much input in deciding when parks should come on stream. I think in a number of areas of the province there are Crown reserves where future parks are contemplated, but up until this point I am not sure the general public have had sufficient input into the determination of development of these parks, what kind of parks they are to be and what area they are to serve. I really think there should be more provision given for public input but once that public input is there then certainly I would like to see you move ahead and introduce the master plan.

When the minister gets reports from committees, I think he has an obligation seriously to consider what they are saying and to move ahead and implement as many of the recommendations that they have made as are feasible. I know in the case of the master plan of Algonquin park the minister will tell me he has implemented almost every recommendation but there are some significant ones that were made by that committee that he hasn't really proceeded to implement. One is the recommendation on motorized boats and that type of thing in the park. I don't think the minister has moved to cut those down in any significant degree. The other recommendation is the one concerning various types of containers for food, the kind that will disintegrate. When we were there we considered it in some detail and depth. I remember the chairman, the late Leslie Frost, was quite impressed and was very enthusiastic about having that recommendation made and implemented.

To my knowledge, the government hasn't gone ahead and done anything about it. It should go ahead and implement some of the important things that have been recommended by a committee, which are not of a frivolous nature but for the benefit of the park.

Mr. Conway: I thought there for a moment I had said too much at that symposium a few weeks ago and I was going to be left off this exchange. I have just a brief comment with respect to something that has been addressed by a great number of speakers tonight, and that's this whole business of master plans. My one area of specific concern is Algonquin. My comment grows out of something that many of the preceding figures referred to, the business of regulations and what we do with master plans when they are in effect at least in one way or the other. I have spent some time with representatives of the ministry, in fact, in the Algonquin region. Up until just a few weeks ago, there was a great deal of confusion as to what elements of the Algonquin master plan were going to show up in the regulations for this year.

I know the minister has discussed this in this Legislature on a number of occasions. I just want to highlight the situation and the concern on the part of people in the ministry and the concern on the part of a great number of park users as to the point at which the master plan regulations or intentions translate themselves into effective policy from the ministerial level. I think this

is something about which we have to be concerned because, as has been said many times before this evening, the credibility of the master plan concept, certainly for Algonquin, gets very substantially undercut by the ongoing lack of implementation. I would draw this to the attention of the minister because I know it to have taken place this past spring and our provincial parks policy must address itself to this kind of a correction.

Mr. Reed: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Lewis: Don't tell me the Bradley-Georgetown powerline runs through a park.

Mr. Breithaupt: It runs through almost everything else.

Mr. Lewis: How are you going to work it in? We are all waiting.

Mr. Reed: It is the best issue I have had in a long time.

Mr. Lewis: That's what you think now. Wait until the campaign.

Mr. Conway: You aren't nervous, are you?

Mr. Reed: It is my privilege to speak to this bill tonight and I will try to confine a very few brief remarks to it. Obviously the most important part of this amendment is section 2, the authorization to prepare master plans for provincial parks and to review and amend such plans. Provincial parks are increasingly popular as our population expands and as we become more oriented towards getting out of doors both in winter and summer. The provincial park is not just a habitat for wild animals, it is also a place of escape and recreation for people who are more and more concentrating in large cities. Therefore the consideration of the creation of new parks will probably become more predominant as times goes on.

[10:00]

The one concern I would have is that when master plans are prepared, for the creation of new parks particularly, that there be sufficient local input, particularly in the areas chosen for these future parks. I think one of the things that we must always be careful to do is to try as much as possible not to upset the lifestyle of the inhabitants of the area. One of the things we can learn from those people, of course, are the important aspects of the geography of the land and the kinds of things that those people themselves are interested in preserving and possibly sharing with the people who come to visit. I can only

say that we are concerned that when these master plans are created they involve adequate local input.

So far as sections 1 and 3 are concerned, section 1, of course, is to modernize the bill, to bring it more up to date and section 3 follows along to extend policing powers to those newly designated areas. I think the functions of the foresters, superintendents and so on, with the powers of the provincial police, have served very well in the past. I think we would be remiss if we were not to extend those powers to the newly designated areas.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, may I express my appreciation at the outset to the number of speakers who have expressed an opinion with regard to what I consider house-keeping amendments to this particular bill. It indicated to me the interest and the concern that the members of this Legislature really have with regard to the provincial park system in this province.

One hundred and twenty-three provincial parks are operated by the Ministry of Natural Resources, scattered from Kenora right through to Windsor and to Ottawa. It is one of the finest provincial park systems on the North American continent.

Mr. Reid: In any jurisdiction.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In any jurisdiction. In fact our parks system, as I've said on many occasions, compares very favourably with the national parks of Canada. When you compare the acreage involved, the number of visitors that we have to our provincial park system, I think we in this Legislature can take a great deal of pride in what has been accomplished in the past in the development of these provincial parks.

Of course, what we are trying to do tonight is bring the Act up to, as the members mentioned, modern-day language. Many of the amendments relate to the reorganization of the Ministry of Natural Resources, from the old Department of Lands and Forests and the clarification and the defining of those particular persons who may act in authority.

With regard to the question of rowdiness I would say to you, Mr. Speaker, we are making gains. When one thinks that last year alone we had something like 40,000 occurrences in one way or another—not all charges but 40,000 registered occurrences—in our provincial park system, then it is cause for concern.

The biggest problem, of course, is with alcohol, there is no question. I would have to

state publicly, and I want to state it with enthusiasm, the tremendous co-operation that we have received from the Ontario Provincial Police in the last couple of years since we've brought this particular problem to the public's attention and to their attention has been most gratifying. In fact the training that they have given our parks people over the last two or three years has resulted in improved quality of recreation in many of our provincial parks.

In fact, I can report to the House that following the first long week-end of this year, our occurrences were down considerably from that of last year. The first long holiday of May 24 is always one that gives us concern and problems. This year, for the first time, we had a decline in the number of occurrences in our provincial parks system. So I'm particularly pleased about that.

Mr. Conway: Was the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) riding shotgun?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I don't know if he was or not; but the results are very encouraging indeed.

Mr. Renwick: You will find that as NDP popularity rises, crime decreases.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Well, no matter who takes credit for it, I'm particularly pleased; really.

Mr. Reid: Why? Are they all joining the party?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I didn't notice that in British Columbia.

An hon. member: You're a redneck group.

Mr. Ferrier: How many Tories are there in British Columbia?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Probably not enough to account for the crime rate, anyway.

Mr. Foulds: Is violence in the provincial parks as great as it is in hockey?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Well, I thought at one time it was; but we've come to grips with the situation.

An hon. member: You guys in the parks should make love, not violence.

Mr. Good: Order, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In fact, I think the hon. member for Cochrane South made reference to the work of the conservation officers in our park system—

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. If the members want to carry on separate conversations, do it outside the chamber.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member for Cochrane South is quite right in making reference to the conservation officers assisting us in the provincial parks programme; but I would point out to him that last year we received an additional complement of 25 new conservation officers and some of those were assigned to that particular duty. This is the largest increase in complement in 11 years, so that we don't think that the enforcement with regard to our fish and wildlife should suffer at all. The extra staff, the extra training that our parks people are receiving from the Ontario Provincial Police is certainly encouraging and the results are evident to us after this first long weekend.

With regard to master planning, I just want to point out that it is government policy that there be public input in master planning, and many of the members spoke about the desire to have public input. As a practising politician, I certainly welcome that kind of assistance in planning a park.

Mr. Renwick: How do you plan to control them?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We feel strongly that a provincial park, adjacent to an urban centre or any large group of people, has to reflect the needs of that particular area. All areas are different, and that is why we established the Provincial Parks Council—to go that one step further and to look at the province as a whole. As you know, the parks council filed its annual report about a week ago—and the report wasn't all complimentary to our parks programme.

Mr. Renwick: It is the minister, not the Provincial Parks Council that makes the decisions.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, the council makes recommendations to the ministry and is very forceful in its recommendations, as you saw in the first annual report. But the Provincial Parks Council is made up of people from all across this province. I believe there are 19 members in total. Some are even from the member for Rainy River's riding, and some from my own riding of Kenora.

Mr. Renwick: There is nobody from Riverdale.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I'm sure there will be if you look at the long list.

Mr. Reid: After your speech, obviously nobody knows anything about parks.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The input is there from a very broad section of the public and they hold public meetings and public hearings across the province on a very regular basis. This is not only to review what the ministry is doing with regard to the development of our park system, the reclassification of the parks themselves, but also we've given them the responsibility to review the master plans every five years. Already we've seen their comments with respect to the master plan of Algonquin Park.

We have had a lot of public input right from the initial request. We have pulled together a large group of people at the local level to start and develop a master plan, but then we also have the Provincial Parks Council which moderates and reviews on a regular basis the input and the various activities and the progress that is made by the Ministry of Natural Resources with respect to provincial parks.

It is our hope, eventually, to have a master plan for every provincial park in the province. This is a mammoth undertaking. We are operating basically with the major parks at the present time, such as Quetico and Algonquin. We have a master plan for Bronte Creek, which is a very special park.

Mr. Cunningham: They come once every election.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: On Rondeau, the oldest provincial park in the Province of Ontario, we have just completed its master plan. So we are moving along and we are getting these master plans in place and their recommendations are being accepted.

One of the members questioned the speed with which we are accepting the recommendations of the master plan. First of all, of course, we have to gain public acceptance, and of course the education of the public at large does take a certain amount of time. Funds and complement to implement many of the recommendations are also a requisite that we are a little slow in coming by periodically; but the master plans are in place and where they are they will be implemented.

With regard to Algonquin we have just recently passed regulations affecting four of the recommendations. As members know, in Quetico we have accepted the total recommendation of the advisory committee and many of those recommendations are being put in place at the present time.

The member for Windsor-Walkerville mentioned Peach Island and asked what we were going to do with Peach Island. His desire, of course, is to have that developed as a provincial park. This is on our long-range programme, but this year we will be using our "Experience '76" people, as we did last year, to assist in an educational programme and an assistance programme for those people who choose to visit that very beautiful island off the city of Windsor. So that it is in place and moving ahead.

We would have no objection to accepting the recommendations of the member for Riverdale that a definition in the definition section of the bill with respect to the district manager be added. I think this was a good suggestion and certainly in the committee of the whole, if it goes there, we would be willing to accept that.

Mr. Lewis: Another triumph for socialism.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: For the member for Riverdale.

Motion agreed to; second reading of the bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading? Committee of the whole House. So ordered.

Clerk of the House: The second order, House in committee of the whole.

MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST AMENDMENT ACT

House in committee on Bill 100, An Act to amend the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Are there any comments, questions or amendments to any section of the bill and if so to which section? The hon. member for Riverdale.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, the only comment that was of concern to me, and I am sorry the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) does not appear to be here—I am not trying to await his arrival, it may well be the parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer would respond to my inquiry.

Mr. Breithaupt: It is his burden.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I understand the hon. parliamentary assistant will respond.

Mr. Conway: An upward and mobile young man, that member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton).

Mr. Lewis: Fortunately, he and Flora spent Saturday night together at the NDP dance in Kingston.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. Would the hon. member continue?

Mr. Renwick: The one thing I learned when I was in Kingston was that the member for Kingston and the Islands better spend a lot more time east of Princess St.

[10:15]

Mr. Norton: That's the harbour.

Mr. Lewis: That's what we mean!

Mr. Renwick: Let me try again: North of Princess St.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Renwick: Let me put it another way: The other side of Princess St.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Will the hon. member return his comments to Bill 100, please?

Mr. Renwick: The opposite side of Princess St. to what your constituency office and your law office are on at the present time.

Interjection.

Mr. Renwick: Perhaps you should build a causeway out to Wolfe Island.

Mr. Norton: Do you know where it is?

Mr. Renwick: I learned a lot.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. Which section of the bill did the hon. member wish to refer to?

Mr. Breithaupt: Precisely which section, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Renwick: He could also return to university and collect those 10,000 votes that are down there. The NDP is obviously a big threat to you—

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Interjection.

Mr. Lewis: If the member for Scarborough Centre wants to interject, let him get back in his seat.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, with your colleague, the Deputy Speaker, out of the chair, it's like being out of school when you are in the chair.

My one and only concern about the bill is the very technical question dealing with the re-enactment of section 1(4) of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. At the present time it specifically provides that there will be no indirect pecuniary interest imputed to a person who is designated by the particular council to be an appointee of that council or the local board on any emanation of the municipal framework within which that appointment is made. That is now changed to say there will be no indirect pecuniary interest imputed to anyone, no matter to which council or board he is appointed.

I stated that quite badly, but by the change from the word "the" to the word "a," from the definite article to the indefinite article, it seems to me you have in fact provided an immense broadening of the area of those to whom an indirect pecuniary interest could be imputed. I would like to understand, from my own point of view, the reason for that change, what the impetus was which led to this particular amendment.

That's the only point I have on the bill. Otherwise, we are quite happy with it.

Mr. Norton: I won't launch into a lesson for the hon. member on the geography of Kingston. I'm pleased to note that the only time he proceeded to—I think he meant the north side of Princess as opposed to the east—was in order to dance.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Would the hon. member confine his comments to Bill 100?

Mr. Norton: I shall, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Cunningham: What were you doing at that dance?

Mr. Conway: Did Flora go too?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Norton: In response to the specific question the hon. member raised, he suggested there was an immense broadening; I don't know where he gets the idea that the broadening is so immense. I think the only situation in which this would apply would be in those situations where there are two-tier governments; for example, in the regional or, I suppose, in the county structure. I can't think of any other situation where one might be a member of two councils at the same time. It was in response to that kind of problem that this amendment was introduced.

As I'm sure you are aware, there are some municipalities in the province where a two-tier structure is in effect and where all of the members of a specific area council serve as representatives of that area on the regional council. Should those members be appointed to a board or a body as representatives, say, of the regional council, at the present time without this amendment they would be deemed to have a conflict of interest if a matter relating to that board should come before them in their capacity as a member of the area council.

There could also be a reverse effect. If, for example, they were an appointee of a regional council to a conservation authority, should any matters come before the area council on which they also serve they might well be deemed to have a conflict of interest unless the amendment as proposed is changed.

I can't think of any other situation in which one might sit on more than one council at a time, given the requirements with respect to residency in the province for serving on a municipal council.

I hope that answers your question and if you have further queries, I would be pleased to try to answer them.

Mr. Renwick: It doesn't and I don't think it is your fault. It's just that I don't understand it.

Suddenly we are faced with a bill which changes the definite article to the indefinite article and the explanatory note says:

The effect of the amendment is to provide that a council member who is a member of a board, commission or other body does not have an indirect pecuniary interest by reason of that fact only, provided he is the member of such board or commission as an appointee of any council.

It doesn't seem to me to mean anything. I still don't understand the change and what I don't understand is why suddenly we are asked to make this change. Something must have happened to have led somebody to make this minuscule amendment to this important bill.

Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that these amendments grew out of requests that were presented to the ministry from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario or the PMLC in situations where—I don't know of specific situations where a problem arose, other than the fact that apparently the question came up in municipal

councils about the province about the kinds of situations that I described.

And going back to the supplementary note; on the changing of the article from the definite to the indefinite, really I can't appreciate why you don't understand it, actually. Obviously the definite article refers to only one council and that would be the council upon which they were sitting at the time they were called upon to cast a vote. Changing that to the indefinite article would expand that to include another council or any other council.

The only situation that really could exist is that one might sit on two councils, an area council and a regional council, or perhaps a township council and a county council. If a person, while sitting upon an area council in that capacity, were called upon to vote on a matter that related to a board—for example a conservation authority—to which they had been appointed by a regional council, unless the article is changed from "the" to "a," or from the definite to the indefinite, they would at the present time have a conflict of interest. In order to preclude that possibility, where they have been appointed by the upper tier and are voting at the lower-tier level, by changing that article it means simply that they would not be deemed to have a conflict of interest under those circumstances.

It really doesn't change the effect of the existing legislation. All it does is expand it to include an appointment from the other tier—from the one on which they are sitting at the time they are called upon to cast a vote. I don't know whether that clarifies it further for you or not. Does it?

Mr. Haggerty: I think the parliamentary secretary has answered the question that I had in mind here that the bill actually doesn't cover conflict of interest. It doesn't remove the sophisticated corruption that now goes on in certain municipalities where certain members of council may be associated with a certain profession such as real estate and where a member of council, knowing full well that a certain development may be taking place in a community or a municipality that's going to be a benefit to him in the long run, can lead council or direct council in a sense up to a certain level. Then when it comes to a vote in council, he sits back and says, "I have an interest in this," and can sit down and not vote on the issue. But the damage has been done.

I can cite a case, for example, and I told the parliamentary assistant during the recess

prior to 8 o'clock, that this has taken place in a number of area municipalities.

I feel the conflict of interest provision doesn't go far enough. I think the person that is elected to council, when it comes to a particular item as it relates to real estate and he happens to be working for a real estate firm or broker, then definitely he shouldn't be sitting on council because in the long run the benefit is for him. He can be a member of council and a member of the regional council or a metro council but I feel that this doesn't remove the conflict of interest. After all, there is a moral responsibility on many persons elected to council. They have a responsibility to the people who elect them to look after their needs, but for many of them who are sitting there their interest is perhaps more important than the interest of the community.

I feel that some place along the line the minister should be plugging this loophole. The situation of a person sitting on council where there is a conflict of interest, who may lead council up to that particular stage and then declare himself in the open by saying he has an interest in this matter, is not good enough. It doesn't plug the hole. As far as I'm concerned, the bill means nothing. It doesn't do what it is intended to do, that is, to stop the sophisticated corruption that there is in local government.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, I would appreciate if we could stand the bill down at this particular point so I could either speak with the parliamentary assistant or try to satisfy myself. It does appear to me to be an enlargement of the number of corporations that can enter into contracts with municipal councils or municipal corporations or with local boards without jeopardizing persons who hold two offices. One is as an officer or director of the corporation on the one hand while on the other hand the second is as a member of the council or of the local board with which the corporation contracts. I still express my concern. Perhaps we could clarify it before it comes back again.

Mr. Norton: May I just briefly respond to that before the matter is set down? If the member is interpreting corporation, I would suggest that it be clear in his mind that it is a corporation incorporated for the purpose of carrying on business for and on behalf of the municipalities, in other words, something like a housing corporation to administer housing for the municipality. It's that type of

thing. It's not a corporation independent from the municipality.

Mr. Renwick: I think that is helpful.

Hon. Mr. Handleman moved that the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

The House resumed, Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the committee of the whole House begs to report progress and asks for leave to sit again.

Report agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Handleman moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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 Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L)
 Conway, S. (Renfrew North L)
 Cunningham, E. (Wentworth North L)
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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament

Tuesday, June 15, 1976

Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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A list of the speakers taking part in the debates in this issue of Hansard appears, in alphabetical order, at the back of this issue.

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, may I rise on a point of order?

Mr. Speaker: A point of order?

Mr. Roy: Yes, a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: How could it be a point of order? We haven't really started the business yet.

Mr. Lewis: Is it a point of order or a point of privilege?

Mr. Roy: Actually, a point of privilege, if you like. It requires a wide interpretation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: That's better.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: You want to be Attorney General.

Mr. Roy: The point is this, if I may address you, Mr. Speaker: For the first time since I've been here, today I find on my desk a cheque for \$24,998.99.

Mr. Lewis: The generosity of it all.

Mr. Roy: It is emanating from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

I understood, and I have the Hansard here from last week, that the minister said that all members would be treated alike. I'd like to know, Mr. Speaker, whether that means we are all going to get cheques from now on or, in the alternative, that we are not going to get any cheques and this is a mistake. I would like your direction, Mr. Speaker, if it's okay for me to go to Ottawa and present the cheque—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows it is not a point of order or privilege. It's probably just good news day for the hon. member.

Mr. Roy: I require your direction.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member wishes to ask the appropriate min-

ister a question that's a different matter. I think it's inappropriate to discuss such matters at this time.

Mr. Lewis: Are there no limits to the lengths they'll go to curry favour with the Liberals?

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I would like your direction.

Mr. Speaker: I just gave it.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Send it back.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Speaker has nothing to do with that and the member will have to deal with the appropriate minister.

Mr. Roy: I would like to ask the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) if it is a mistake.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: All right. Could we get started in a more orderly fashion, please? The hon. Minister of Government Services has a statement.

Mr. Bullbrook: She wants her cheque; cash it.

INAUGURATION OF COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to inform you and members of the Legislature of the inauguration of the Ontario government communications technology satellite experiment, dubbed CTS, which took place at noon today in Toronto. Through telephone calls to Madame Jeanne Sauvé, the federal Minister of Communications in Ottawa, and to our ministry in Thunder Bay, I officially opened the system and declared it operational both at the centre here in Toronto and in northwestern Ontario.

Mr. Foulds: Did that make it so?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: This system appears to offer great promise as a means of communicating with and within remote areas of Ontario where our own existing systems are

often inadequate due to distance and low population densities.

I think it is not difficult to imagine the high degree of usefulness this system could have in the delivery of government services to Ontario's farflung northern areas.

Mr. Conway: I can imagine.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: In the future, reliable, potentially inexpensive systems such as this one can provide an important solution to our current needs in these areas.

The multiminsty programme plan, co-ordinated by the Ministry of Government Services telecommunication services branch, calls for a number of practical experiments to be carried out in two phases beginning today, continuing for 3½ months, and recommencing next April for a similar period. The experiments are to take place within north-western Ontario and between there and Toronto using small earth stations exclusively.

Test highlights of the multiminsty programme are:

Natural Resources: Forest fire control in remote areas where conventional communication systems are unreliable or non-existent. I must say, Mr. Speaker, how much I regret the system was not in operation last week.

Health: Emergency medical service, including transmission of vital sign data when the very ill or badly injured are being evacuated by air from isolated regions.

OPP: Establishing and maintaining contact with remote northern Indian communities otherwise devoid of good communications.

Environment: Transmission of meteorological and environmental data to Toronto from remote sites for processing and assessing pollution levels, etc.

Transportation and Communications: Establishing ready access to a Toronto computer for remote operational assistance.

In addition, these ministries and Government Services, the prime experimenters, as well as others will test the system's potential for regular administrative voice, data and facsimile communications.

This has all been made possible, Mr. Speaker, as a result of a joint Canadian-United States experimental programme in which a satellite designed, built and funded by Canada was successfully launched from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida in January, this year.

This overall project began some two years ago with the commencement of the joint Canadian-US programme aimed at promot-

ing the peaceful uses of outer space, and the launching of Canada's first satellite, the Alouette I.

Currently, this communications technology satellite project represents a major breakthrough in communications technology, and will undoubtedly lead to a whole range of related services throughout Canada by the end of this decade.

We are pleased and honoured to participate in this experimental project not only because of the major significance of this rapidly growing field of man's knowledge of technology but also because it will provide us with new and important ways of communicating to previously remote and inaccessible areas of our province, and so link all parts of Ontario to provide a communications network serving people wherever they may live.

CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the House that my ministry is issuing an immediate cease and desist order today under the Business Practices Act against Holloway Productions Inc. of Escondido, Calif., a fund-raising organization; against its principal, R. Eugene Holloway; and against Gary Sanderson and Jule Sanderson.

The order charges them with making false, misleading, deceptive or unconscionable representations in their fund-raising operations around the province.

Mr. Cunningham: Sounds like Bill Kelly.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Consumers were persuaded to donate by means of a series of telephone solicitations based on a prepared script.

The consumers were told that their donation would help send eight deserving or less fortunate children to a circus. "Just return the ticket with your \$8 cheque," they were told.

The order describes these solicitations as a boiler-room operation where employees of Holloway used "pitch cards," with telephone numbers of consumers who had been proven givers in the past.

In the course of these telephone solicitations the consumers were not told that the fund-raising was a profit-making venture nor was there any indication that a great part of the funds were going to Holloway and that many more tickets were sold than could actually be used.

The promotion dealt mainly with Big John Strong's 1869 Circus, scheduled to appear

during July in North York, Cambridge, Oshawa, Kitchener-Waterloo, St. Catharines, Oakville, Peel county, Peterborough and throughout Ontario.

Often the promotion included the use of several service clubs' names. The name was used to give the fund collecting an air of respectability so people would contribute. Only a small portion of the money actually goes to a service club or is intended to send children to the circus.

I can understand the dilemma in which these service clubs find themselves. It is difficult to get members out to raise money, but there are many ways to raise funds without getting involved with his kind of fund-raising firm.

At present many clubs are lending their good name because it looks like a simple way to receive a few thousand dollars. In actual fact, up to 80 per cent of all the money raised in this way goes to the fund-raiser.

My ministry is trying to stop this type of fund-raising but no amount of action on our part can work effectively if the service clubs continue to allow themselves to be used and if consumers continue to answer telephone solicitations with large contributions.

CONSUMER PRODUCTS WARRANTIES ACT

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Today I will be introducing for first reading an important piece of legislation. The Consumer Products Warranties Act represents the position of the government of Ontario in the development of a consistent and uniform warranty system for Canada.

The existing legislation under the Sale of Goods Act relating to implied conditions and warranties is now 80 years old. It no longer provides adequate protection for consumers in this province. As a result, most consumers today do not know what their rights are because they do not understand the legal terms which govern consumer transactions.

Consumers generally think of their protection in terms of the so-called guarantees they receive from sellers and manufacturers. However, guarantee is not legal language. In fact, it's a word which has been used by some sellers and manufacturers to escape their legal responsibilities.

The inadequacy of the existing legislation to protect the consumer is a matter of great concern to this government. It is fundamental to our society's notion of honest business that the reasonable expectations of the buyer be satisfied by the performance of the

product. Where these expectations are not met it is only right that the buyer should have easy access to legal recourse and that means having at his or her disposal legislation which is both understandable and easy to use.

Our main objective is to bring the law in line with the conditions of the marketplace. The specific purpose of the Consumer Products Warranties Act is to modernize and simplify consumer warranties. It does this by replacing the existing system of conditions and warranties with a new definition of warranty that provides a basic minimum standard to all transactions. This is called the basic statutory warranty.

The Act also provides for a supplementary warranty which the retailer or manufacturer may offer over and above the basic statutory warranty. The Act covers most products costing more than \$25 which are considered movable possessions with the exception of such things as food, drink, medicine, cosmetics, clothing and securities.

[2:15]

In brief, here are the main improvements the new Act provides. The first is a clarification of warranties covering five essential aspects of consumer transaction. They are the following: A statutory warranty to cover products which are sold by description or sample rather than through demonstration of the actual merchandise;

A statutory warranty by the seller and manufacturer that both a product and its components will perform for a reasonable length of time, having account of the nature of the product;

A statutory warranty by the seller and manufacturer that spare parts and reasonable repair facilities will be available to the consumer;

A supplementary warranty of acceptability based on disclosure of all defects if a product is substandard. The onus is on the seller to disclose that the goods are not suitable for all purposes normally expected of them;

Finally, a supplementary warranty of fitness for a particular purpose which the consumer makes known to the seller, except where it's clear that the consumer disregards the seller's skill and judgement.

A second improvement the new Act provides is to prohibit the use of "disclaimer" clauses purporting to restrict or diminish any warranty or remedy under the Act.

A third is to provide remedies for the breach of statutory or supplementary war-

ranty. These include the obligation of the seller to make good the breach and a right of action for rescission on the part of the consumer. Remedies may also include damages awarded to the consumer based on estimated losses which result directly from the breach. A very important procedure in all these remedies is to permit oral evidence even when a written agreement exists.

A fourth improvement provides that when there is a joint warranty by the seller and manufacturer, each is equally responsible in a warranty action.

The Consumer Products Warranties Act is a common-sense response to legitimate concerns. It will provide significant new protection with a minimum of inconvenience to those who carry on a business in a fair and reasonable manner.

The new legislation is completely consistent with the existing philosophy and methodology for dealing with consumer-related problems. It is expected to make a significant contribution in our efforts to remove the stumbling blocks from the path of the consumer.

It is not the government's intention to proceed with debate on this Act at the present time. We expect response from the public, from business, from our sister provinces and from the federal government. The process of developing a high degree of uniformity across the country may not be as fast as some would like but the introduction of this bill in Ontario is a major first step in the process.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

HOSPITAL WORKERS DISPUTE

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Health: Has the Minister of Health taken any specific personal initiative—or has he ascertained where the area of potential, absolute breakdown exists—as we reach the 11th hour in the possible hospital workers' walkout across the province?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have kept very well informed insofar as I could keep informed of the progress. I understand the Ontario Labour Relations Board sat until the small hours of this morning trying to resolve the technical or legal difficulties between the two parties.

I am still encouraged enough to think that perhaps a closure will be averted, simply because (a) the findings of the board may be made known before the strike deadline and (b) a settlement in the other 40 hos-

pitals served by the Service Employees International Union has been reached by negotiation; I'm encouraged by that, because traditionally there has been some relationship between the two settlements. I would hope that both parties to this agreement would look at that agreement and would be relating their own demands to it, therefore avoiding a strike.

Mr. Lewis: That's a useful reply. By way of supplementary, since the Service Employees International Union has negotiated a settlement, and one of the things CUPE clearly feels most aggrieved about is the matter of 11 cents which was awarded retroactively to the Service Employees International Union after the minister participated in the negotiated settlement last time but was not given to CUPE, can he perhaps make that suggestion to the hospital boards and simply by doing so avert what everybody would agree would be an unhappy and undesirable walk-out?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I tried to make clear that I would not be involved in the direct negotiations this time. There is nothing in the negotiations to preclude that from happening if the people dealing with CUPE decide that they are willing to make that kind of offer. That's their business. My budget to them won't change; they know that.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, isn't that exactly the problem—that a differential has emerged between two major unions that have had strong wage relationships, and wouldn't it be silly for the kingdom to be lost for 11 cents an hour which the minister awarded to one but not the other?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I didn't award that to anybody, as the member knows.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, the minister did. I was there. I was at the other end of the phone.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We are talking about SEIU at the present moment, are we not? We didn't have any telephone conversations on that, as I recall.

The fact remains that I feel we are following a course of action which I believe the NDP supports and that is negotiation.

Mr. Mancini: Who's the guy next to you?

Hon. F. S. Miller: It has been carried out in good faith with one union vis-à-vis the management group. I trust and hope it's being carried out by the management group vis-à-vis the other union in good faith. I think

that's what the court's trying to determine right now in one of its decisions.

I prefer to leave these decisions where they rightfully belong, to the hospital board, since we have made very clear this year the total amount of money they will have to operate.

HAWKESBURY AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Mr. Lewis: A further question to the Minister of Health, if I may, Mr. Speaker.

What happened in the case of the Hawkesbury and District General Hospital which prompted this ministry as late as March, 1976, to give them the go-ahead on their building programme which had been in process since 1971 and then, at a 20-minute meeting in June, to reverse that decision so that the whole board of the hospital is threatening resignation, has pulled out of the building programme, is returning donations to the donors and is expressing extreme frustration and anger with the duplicity of the government?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have in front of me a copy, I guess, of this week's local newspaper, *Le Carillon*?

Mr. Lewis: *Le Carillon*.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes. I'm reading the local reaction to the scene. I think the truth is that because of the magnitude of my budget this year and the fact that there will probably be some expenses which are difficult to control—I think the ones we're just talking about a few moments ago are some—for the time being some of the capital projects have been embargoed.

Mr. MacDonald: Didn't you know that in March?

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, we did not know that in March.

Mr. Lewis: You didn't know that in March?

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, I did not know that in March. At that point, I had enough capital to allow the projects we had defined and given priority to to go ahead this year. I did not know that until very recently.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary: I understand the restraint programme. Doesn't it seem nonsensical to the minister and destructive of a community to encourage them to spend nearly \$200,000 already on consultants' fees and all the related matters, to tell

them as late as March to proceed and then, out of the blue, reverse it in June? How did that happen in this ministry?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have a total budget I have to live within. The hon. member may recall I wasn't permitted to make some of the savings I had calculated for this year.

Mr. Lewis: Because of the courts?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Because of the courts and because of other factors.

Mr. Roy: We've all got to follow the law.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The fact remains that—
Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. F. S. Miller: —if I can't save it on the one hand, I have to save it on the other hand. It's as simple as that.

Mr. Cassidy: Is the minister prepared to make any assurances, which I hope can be taken as genuine, to the Hawkesbury Hospital Board which would allow them to plan for recommencement of the project within the foreseeable future?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope so. I've learned one thing: Capital expenditure is the most difficult part of a budget to guarantee. One assumes that operations will carry on but capital is often the one thing that varies a bit from year to year as the pinch from operating budgets gets tighter or as it releases a bit.

During my tenure as minister I have been very wary about encouraging hospitals to start upon capital projects. I have visited this one. I agree they need a new hospital. It still has priority and it's going to be built. The planning money has not been wasted. I have had to delay its start.

CLOSURE OF WHITEDOG TOURIST ROAD

Mr. Lewis: A question, if I may, of the Chairman of the Cabinet: What did the minister initiate following our last exchange in the Legislature about the putting up of the barricade on the Whitedog Reserve, which resulted in the putting up of a barricade on the Whitedog Reserve, I guess, just yesterday or the day before? Does he know it's up? Does he know the protest is now in full throat, as it were? What is he about to do?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, I think everyone is well aware—it was mentioned in the press—that the barricade is up. Following the question in the House, I did get in touch with the solicitors of Hydro and the band, trying to arrange a meeting. If the hon. member recalls, at that time the blockade was to take place on Thursday, June 10.

I did my best to try and arrange a meeting the day before, for the Wednesday, in order to have these issues dealt with. There are several issues that are being negotiated with the solicitors of the Indian band and with the solicitors of Hydro. However, through some misunderstanding, the meeting was not held on that Wednesday; it was held on the following day, Thursday.

I am told there is another meeting to be held this week to discuss various issues—it's quite a large package deal.

With reference to the blockade, I have been in touch with the chief. I mentioned to the chief that the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier) and I would be willing to meet with him if this was agreeable, and I asked him if he would be willing to lift the blockade until this meeting was held. I mentioned to him the meeting will probably take place sometime this weekend. The chief replied that he would be willing to meet with us, but at this time he was not prepared to remove the blockade.

Mr. Lewis: I can understand the chief's position, but may I ask about the minister's? Is the minister pursuing that meeting between the Minister of Natural Resources and himself with the band at Whitedog?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Yes, as I just told the member right now.

Mr. Lewis: It will take place?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: I indicated to the chief that we are prepared to meet with him.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary: Has the minister ascertained from the Minister of Health whether, in fact, there will be a ban on sport fishing, as we questioned on March 12 and April 29, and which the chief has again been quoted in newspapers as demanding as a condition for lifting the blockade?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: On that question, Mr. Speaker, I have had no communications from the chief or members of his band as to the discretion of closing. The only things that I know are what I have read in newspaper articles. When I did write to the two chiefs

on April 9, I indicated at that time that the closing of the English-Wabigoon River system was a question that had been discussed at cabinet, and it was a very complex question. It has economic, social and other elements, and the question is still being actively pursued by cabinet. I indicated to the chiefs that no immediate decision would be made—and that position still stands. I would like to reiterate that that matter is under very active consideration by our cabinet.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary; the minister will have nothing specific to tell them then this weekend—he will simply talk to them about it?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, I wish I was in that fortunate position of the Leader of the Opposition, who has instant solutions to complex problems. All I am saying at this time is that we are willing to meet with them on a rational basis.

Mr. Lewis: This has been going on six months; since October.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: If the hon. Leader of the Opposition has the answers, we would welcome them.

Mr. Lewis: Try facing it.

Mr. Speaker: Any further questions?

Mr. Nixon: A supplementary: In response to the minister's comments about a specific thing, by way of negotiation, has he discussed with his colleagues the possibility of government policy adjusting so that a ban on sport fishing, as demanded very reasonably by the Indians, would be accepted? Surely, whether the minister knows it or not, this is one of the important areas in contention.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: I am not sure if I understood entirely the question that the hon. member—

Mr. Nixon: Well, if I may clarify. Is the minister prepared to go up there able to make such a decision if it is put to him, or will there just be more of the very friendly talks at which the minister is adept?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Again, I would like to reiterate what I said before, Mr. Speaker, that this is a very difficult, complex question. The matter has been discussed and there will be a government decision. The matter will be discussed again tomorrow, so by this weekend we should be in a better position than we are now to make a decision. But it is a very difficult decision, as I think the hon. member appreciates.

LEAD CONTAMINATION

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Minister of the Environment. Will he, in fact, be meeting with the board of health for the city of Toronto before the session rises, as he was requested specifically to do, on the smelter problem?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I don't know if we will be meeting with the board of health before next Tuesday, I really can't say, but certainly there is no reason why we can't arrange to meet with the board of health.

Mr. Lewis: In his discussions around the replacement of the soil, is the minister prepared to pursue the replacement of the soil in all the properties of over 1,000 parts per million, and then insist that the companies compensate the government?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The figures I gave the hon. member yesterday deal with those properties that have lead readings of 3,000 parts per million. The recommendation of the hearing board is that the soil at those particular locations be removed.

[2:30]

Mr. Lewis: The task force said 1,000.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The task force said 1,000. That's one of the reasons I feel the hearing board and the task force should meet even before we meet with the board of health.

Mr. Renwick: Where did the figure of \$300,000 come from as the estimated cost of the replacement of the topsoil in the areas mentioned by the minister yesterday?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: This is an estimate by officials of my ministry together with some outside consultants, people in that type of work. It includes not only the removal of the topsoil but also its safe and complete disposal.

Mr. McClellan: May I ask the minister if he would identify, I believe it was 125 properties, which will have the soil removed and provide that information to us as quickly as possible?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes, I would be happy to table that information.

FEDERAL MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Lewis: One more question, to the Minister of Community and Social Services: Is he aware that the federal Minister of National Health and Welfare, the Hon. Marc Lalonde,

today tore this ministry strip by strip at his address to the luncheon of the Canadian Council on Social Development, saying he could think of no single significant proposal for reform brought to the table by the government of Ontario, saying that as active participants in a dialogue this ministry was nowhere to be seen? Did the minister know that this attack on the inadequacy of his ministry was about to be made? Has he seen the text of it?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: No.

Interjections.

Mr. Cunningham: Now he knows.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: I guess this is what the minister meant in his memo by intelligence. May I ask him can we expect a response to the very, very tough charges—I have seldom seen them as tough—which the federal minister has levelled at the minister and his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: When I have read the remarks, I will consider my response.

Mr. S. Smith: I have a supplementary to this question.

Mr. Speaker: All right. It is your turn for questions as well.

INCOME SUPPLEMENT PROGRAMME

Mr. S. Smith: All right then, let it be a new question but on the same topic to the same minister. Can the minister explain to us why Ontario is the only province that has absolutely gone back on its agreement with the other provinces and with Ottawa in terms of the income supplementation programme? Why has the government negotiated for three years and now said that it will do no further negotiating? What does the minister estimate to be the cost of this programme and can he explain this behaviour over the last three years?

Mr. Yakabuski: We can't trust the feds. They will suck you in and then opt out.

Mr. Nixon: 'Bye, Paul.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: First of all, I would like to point out that my perception of the whole matter is that Ontario is not alone in its position or stance. Secondly, I would like to point out that, although the meetings or negotiations covering a number of areas have been carried on for about three years, there have been a number of variations over that period

of time so that it wasn't a question of taking three years to consider a single proposition.

ETOBICOKE OLYMPIC FACILITIES FUND LTD.

Mr. S. Smith: I will have other times to deal with that. A question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Would the minister undertake to inform this House with regard to Etobicoke Olympic Facilities Fund Ltd., referred to in a column by Dick Beddoes today? Would the minister undertake to tell us what the explanation is as to why whenever one calls this particular firm to find out about its fund-raising activities, one gets a response from its solicitor basically refusing to give any information, and why the town council has been unable to have the books looked at? Could he undertake to tell us that? And why is it there's nothing mentioned about fund raising in the charter of this particular company?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I haven't seen Mr. Beddoes' column. I will look at it and, if a response is required, I certainly will be prepared to make one.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of a brief supplementary, is the minister aware then that Etobicoke Olympic Facilities Fund Ltd. is alleged to have been raising funds for a particular stadium and that neither the town council nor donors have been able to get any information from this company?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I have to assume from the hon. member's question that that is contained in the column. While I certainly appreciate his new-found faith in the media, I haven't seen it and I'll investigate it to find out if it's true.

Mr. S. Smith: For the information of the minister, this is the result of a phone call to an alderman on the town council of Etobicoke. The information does not just come from the media.

BUDWORM CONTROL

Mr. S. Smith: A question to the Minister of Natural Resources. Does the minister agree with the statement by one S. J. Simons, president of Ontario Paper Co., that there are currently 30 million acres of Ontario forest infested by the spruce budworm and that the situation is, in his words, beyond control?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of those exact figures but I will tell

the hon. member that at the present time we are spraying about 114,000 acres of northern Ontario's forest land, mainly in the Quetico Park area. That's going on at the present time.

Mr. S. Smith: As a brief supplementary: Will the minister consider allocating—or does he think it's necessary to allocate any more money for the spraying programme to control this infestation? Would areas other than forest and provincial parks be considered for this particular programme?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, our success with regard to the control of spruce budworm is excellent. In fact, we have jurisdictions from all across this continent looking at our successes in northwestern Ontario. I might add that we are doing spruce budworm protection in the Algonquin Park region. I'll certainly make myself aware of any other areas which might need some further attention.

Mr. Nixon: Does the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Kerr) know you're doing this?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: He approved it.

Mr. S. Smith: We should ask the Minister of the Environment if he wants that spraying to go on.

LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. S. Smith: A question for the Minister of the Environment: On what basis has the Environmental Assessment Board decided to permit operation of a brine disposal well on land zoned as rural in the township of Moore, over the objections of both the township council—the continuing objections of that council—and the area residents? Does he know the basis for that decision?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: My understanding is, that that well has been operating for some time; it's not necessarily a completely new operation. It is essential from the point of view of having a facility for our industrial liquid waste disposal, otherwise it will end up in some stream or probably the St. Clair River or Lake Erie. We're satisfied that the disposal in the well is safe and under those circumstances we don't feel that the objections were legitimate.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, is the minister aware that a considerable amount of disagreement with that particular position—a considerable amount of exception—is taken by the deputy reeve and the reeve of Moore township? Would he personally undertake to

look into the situation, explain the precise rationale as to why they couldn't come to an amicable settlement of this matter and inform the House accordingly?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes, I'll be happy to do that. We've had discussions with the councillors in that area. The local member has been in on these discussions, so has our regional office, and they're quite aware of why the decision was made but I would be happy to meet with them further.

BROWNDALE OPERATIONS

Mr. S. Smith: One last question to the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker: Is the minister aware that at this time as many as 30 Browndale Haliburton employees are seriously considering a mass resignation to take place at the end of this month, partly because of government delays in handling the Browndale issue? What steps is he planning to avert the departure of what would probably be the most experienced senior people in the whole Browndale programme?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of very real problems in the Browndale Haliburton programme. I'm aware that 32 children will be released to their homes very shortly in that particular area, having, in the opinion of Browndale, utilized or benefited from their programme to the maximum.

I am aware that our ministry has been having talks with Mrs. Brown and has recommended to her that she have a local board, similar to the one in Peterborough. Up to this point she has not been willing to do so. It's my opinion that this would be improved by such a board and I am going to encourage her. I have to point out I have no statutory rights to insist upon it. I'm looking at what rights I might have in other ways if co-operation and discussion don't solve the problem. If I think for one moment the children in that area are not getting the attention they deserve, then this government will act.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary: Is the minister having any second thoughts on the long-established policy of the government in maintaining the services that have been established by Browndale over a number of years in the private sector? Is he giving it any consideration to making it a direct responsibility of either his ministry or some other?

Hon. F. S. Miller: It's a direct responsibility of my ministry. I'm so pleased that

the member said second thoughts because he so seldom allows me to have first thoughts, or give me credit for them in any case.

Mr. Nixon: I give you all the credit you are due.

Mr. Samis: You walked into that one.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Once in a while, we'll give you one.

Mr. Bullbrook: Not a bad response.

Mr. Roy: That's very gracious of the minister.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The assumption from the Liberal Party that government should take over the provision of all services in the province is surprising. If it came from the other side of the House, I could understand it. It happens that a good quality of service is delivered by the many groups, not just Browndale, who are working with government financing but not directly as government employees.

Mr. Shore: When is the audit going to be released?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I would hate to see this government have to run every single operation. There is only one net result.

Mr. Haggerty: You are running them now.

Mr. Peterson: So would we.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is not contributing anything to the debate.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Once government has to run the functions, we become bound to many rules and regulations that do not apply in the private sector. The volunteer component often disappears, the staffing ratios change and the service and quality do not necessarily improve.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Victoria-Haliburton with a final supplementary on this.

Mr. Eakins: Supplementary: Would the minister not agree that this mass resignation would signal the opportunity for Browndale to close down the operation in Haliburton, which is something they probably have been wanting to do? What steps is the minister taking to make sure that this remains open?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Each specific location is covered by regulation. It designates exactly

where the children may be, right down to street and lot description if possible. This is the change we made a year or two ago so that we could control where the services are delivered. I suspect they would not be permitted to do that under our current regulations.

If they, in fact, close down those operations, we probably would have the right to turn them over to somebody else.

ST. LAWRENCE RESIN PRODUCTS LTD.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I'm replying to a question raised by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lewis) last week concerning the St. Lawrence Resin Products Ltd. plant in Cayuga.

In further reviewing the plant operations, my staff have concluded that the aldehyde content is very small and the amount emitted to the environment is negligible. We plan to conduct air sampling at and around the plant this week to reaffirm this conclusion and to determine the exact nature of the compounds being emitted.

As we indicated in a letter dated Feb. 9, 1976, to one of the residents being bothered by odours from the plant, "fumes from aldehydes comprising the raw feed might cause some respiratory problems." However, it now seems clear that any small content of aldehydes is most unlikely to give rise to any ill-effects on the health of persons living in the neighbourhood, as stated in the letter from Messrs. Marshall and Thibideau.

There is no question that the plant has had a history of producing malodours in the neighbourhood. We have prosecuted the company twice on this score. The first case in October, 1971, was lost. In the second in March, 1972, we obtained a conviction and a fine was levied by the court.

Mr. Smith: Yes, \$100.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: That is all, yes. The company has taken a number of steps to reduce odours since 1972. The last step, the installation of a scrubber, is scheduled to be completed at the end of July, 1976. Much of this equipment has already been delivered at the plant. The nature of the measures taken has been described in correspondence to the town of Haldimand and to the neighbours who inquired about the status of the abatement programme.

We will continue to report to the people of the town on our forthcoming investigations

and on the completion of the abatement programme.

Mr. Cunningham: Supplementary: Given that this corporation and the president of this corporation also operate a similar facility in the city of Hamilton and it has emitted a great deal of solid naphthalene, and both these plants have resulted in considerable discomfort to the people who live around them, doesn't the minister think that the time has come for some action on the part of his ministry to ensure that the people in the area aren't subjected to further gases, be they from aldehyde, naphthalene or whatever?

[2:45]

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that the hon. member does not overdramatize the situation in respect to these plants. I am not aware of any problems with the plant in Hamilton. Because the two plants happen to have the same president isn't any reason to be concerned about both plants unless there are some concerns about the emissions from those plants.

If the hon. member has any information about the plant in Hamilton, I would be happy to appraise it and have my ministry comment on it. But just because it happens to be a similar type of plant, it's important that we do not, shall we say, categorize them both in the same way.

Mr. Cunningham: Supplementary: Would the minister come with me to the plant in Hamilton, examine it and possibly report back to the House and favour us with some decision as to what his opinion would be, as the Minister of the Environment, with regard to the safety of the people who live around it? Because I want to tell the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That's practically a repetition of the first question.

Mr. Cunningham: —if he's not aware of the problem, I want him to know it exists.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I'd like to have the hon. member tell me exactly what the concern is with the Hamilton plant, and then I will look into it.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS

Mr. Warner: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Since the minister is aware of the very serious student unemployment problem

for this summer, will he rescind the 10 per cent increase of the student earning requirement for OSAP, or will he simply drop the savings requirement for those who remain unemployed throughout this summer?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: No, I think that would not be the appropriate thing to do at this time. I think the member is aware that we will review those cases; there is a very positive review mechanism. For those who are able to obtain jobs and for all those others who have applied to the Student Assistance Programme in the normal fashion, I think the rules should stay as they are, particularly when one considers the appeal mechanism that is open to all students.

OHIP COVERAGE

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Health. I wonder if the minister could explain the insensitivity of OHIP in refusing to cover the cost of reconstructive surgical operations to patients, following breast cancer operations, when clearly these costs and these operations are said to be necessitated not only by the family doctor but by opinions of psychiatrists?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, there is a mechanism for people to appeal on surgical grounds if the surgery was deemed by our staff to be cosmetic. This type of case comes up from time to time, and I'm sure that medical advice is taken seriously. OHIP does not cover all surgical procedures.

Mr. Roy: I agree.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It specifically does not cover those that are deemed to be cosmetic. This was probably deemed to be in that category. I know that emotional arguments will be brought in; in other words, the effects upon the emotional state of the patient will be brought to bear by the psychiatrist. We have to consider these, but in general the decisions of the appeal boards have been negative.

Mr. Roy: Supplementary: Apart from the fact that there may or may not be decisions from the appeal board, there is a policy decision that has to be made by the ministry. Would the minister consider giving some follow-up to the statement of the acting Minister of Health (B. Stephenson), who replaced him for a while, who said she was concerned about this problem and who, on April 8, said the ministry would be looking into this situation? Would the minister not feel that in cir-

cumstances following this type of surgery, where opinions are given from psychiatrists that this clearly is reconstructive surgery and not cosmetic surgery, perhaps his ministry and OHIP should review that policy?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: The question is too long; the question is much too long.

Mr. Roy: If I may just add, and to be brief, does the minister not feel that it would be better to pay for this surgery—

Some hon. members: Question!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Roy: Don't they even know a question when they hear one?

Mr. S. Smith: What a bunch of trained seals over there!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Peterson: Get your finger out of this, John. It's not your business.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, The hon. member will complete his question.

Mr. Roy: I would like to ask the minister, Mr. Speaker, if he does not feel that it would be better to pay for the operation, rather than pay for years of psychiatric treatment to one of these patients?

Mr. Shore: How is your finger?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, that makes an assumption that years of psychiatric treatment will be required. That's exactly why there's a certain amount of discretion in the matter. I would have to let the medical people come to a conclusion, rather than myself. Reconstructive surgery is still cosmetic unless it returns the function of the organ reconstructed.

Mr. Roy: I have evidence here. One further supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications has the answer to a question asked previously.

Mr. Shore: You don't know how valuable it is.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We don't need the side conversations in here. The hon. member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski); order! The hon. minister. We're wasting valuable time.

CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAYS

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to respond to a question asked by the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) on May 21. The question was as follows:

I wonder if the minister could supply me with information as to why so many people on Highway 35, at the Minden bypass in Haliburton county, have been turned down for access to that highway when, last August, the Peterborough Lumber Co. received permission to gain access to the highway?

Mr. Speaker, the Minden bypass was purchased in the early 1950s and designated as a controlled access highway in 1955. Access was allowed in the original property agreements for existing land uses and a limited amount of commercial entrances were permitted at that time.

It is the intention of this ministry to improve the existing north junction of old Highway 35 and lands for the new connection were purchased some 1,000 ft south of the existing connection. The lands of Peterborough Lumber Co. are located directly opposite this new road connection and a future public road could be allowed at this location since it is not, in fact, creating a new intersection.

The Peterborough Lumber Co. has agreed that its access will be positioned on a 66 ft right of way, and that this access can be converted to a public road upon demand. This is in keeping with ministry guidelines and we would also have no objections to other development taking place via a municipal street system on the bypass.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member asked a supplementary question at that time:

Could the minister tell me what is the policy of his ministry in regard to controlled access highways? Does it vary from area to area, or is it the same across the province?

Mr. Speaker, it is the policy of this ministry to append a controlled access designation on those highways where it is desirable to control the type and amount of access which will be permitted. While the formal designation never varies, the degree of control is a discretionary matter which can differ from highway to highway, depending on the function of that particular highway. All controlled access highways are evaluated prior to designation and written instructions are issued defining the degree of control to ensure the purpose and viability of these roadways are retained.

For example, no individual direct access is permitted to freeways, such as Highway 401, whereas access is permitted for the present use of abutting lands on highways, such as the Minden, Lindsay and Cambridge bypasses, which were all necessitated because the existing sections had become heavily built up. The purpose of the controlled access designations in these instances was not to prohibit all access, but to limit the amount of access which is permitted.

MOBILE HOME ASSESSMENT

Mr. Wildman: I have a question of the Minister of Revenue. Could the minister explain why the Sault Ste. Marie regional assessment office is ignoring Judge Vannini's decision regarding the assessment of mobile homes, despite the minister's assurance to me in this House that the decision would be adhered to? Is this policy of ignoring the court's ruling widespread through the province, or just a local Algoma problem?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge whatever of the allegation made by the hon. member. So far as I am aware, the principle laid down in Judge Vannini's decision has been followed. It's been the instruction of my ministry. However, I will look into the matter and determine whether or not the allegations are fact.

Mr. Wildman: If the minister finds that the decision has been ignored and that all mobile homes are being assessed, whether or not they have wheels, could the minister report to this House on whether or not it is the decision of the government to appeal the decision through the courts rather than leaving it to the local mobile home owners?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Mr. Speaker, when I've looked into this matter and determined whether or not there is cause for the member's suggestion and allegation, I will report to this House as to what action I have taken. Of course, it is the intention that the principles laid down by Judge Vannini be adopted and they are being followed to the best of my knowledge. Obviously, if they aren't, some action will have to be taken.

If they aren't, it could be that there is some valid reason for it. It may be that there is a different situation pertaining to the portion of that district which doesn't fall naturally into this kind of instruction. I will have to check that out. One way or the other if it is appropriate that that instruction

be applied in that area in the consistent fashion in which I believe it is being applied across this province, of course, appropriate action will be taken.

ESSEX PACKERS

Mr. Riddell: A question of the Attorney General: This is a question pertaining to the Essex Packers' bankruptcy and the government's involvement insofar as the Guelph plant is concerned. In view of the fact that the side agreement was made by DeJong on behalf of Essex Packers in order to pay a concern in the States known as Frederick and Herrod \$142,000, which represented 100 cents on the dollar, and in view of the fact that this appears to be an irregular procedure, if not illegal, when one considers that the unpreferred creditors here, such as the farmers got paid only 15 cents on the dollar, would the minister not think that the time is ripe for a public inquiry into this whole affair?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, this matter has been within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Correctional Services.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I do have some general history of the matter. Assuming that the member is alleging an irregularity, on the basis of his allegation I will be pleased to look into the matter and advise the House as to our views on whether or not there has been some irregularity as alleged.

COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENCES

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, last week there was a supplementary question asked me by the Leader of the Opposition in reference to the commercial fisheries on Lake of the Woods, how many licences there were and their distribution.

There are 46 commercial licences in Lake of the Woods area. Of this number, 16 are held by Indian fisheries and 30 are held by white fisheries. During the past 15 years, four licences have been transferred to native people from non-Indians. Also, as I mentioned to him last week, there have been no new licences issued during the past 10 years.

NURSING HOME CLOSURES

Ms. Gigantes: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Health: As this marks the last day of the three-month period of grace which his ministry gave to the MacLaren House Nursing Home in Ottawa, during which time it was supposed to comply with ministry standards, I wonder if he could report to us on what his decision will be about the MacLaren House Nursing Home?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear the question, I'm sorry.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member repeat the question? Order, please, the background noise doesn't help.

Ms. Gigantes: I will try to speak up, Mr. Speaker. As this marks the last day in the three-month period of grace which the ministry so kindly extended to the MacLaren House Nursing Home, in which period of time it was supposed to come up to ministry standards, I wonder if he would care to report to the House on what his decision will be about licensing or allowing that establishment to retain its licence?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the MacLaren House Nursing Home is not the only one in the province which has been given a similar time frame in which to come up to standards. I haven't had an up-to-date nursing report. I will get one.

[3:00]

I can assure the member that while we don't like putting homes out of business, any that are not making an honest attempt to comply with reasonable orders from us are asked to close. I would not see any reason to vary this particular case.

Ms. Gigantes: Supplementary: Could I also ask the Minister of Health to report on the progress of our 200 promised nursing beds—promised since last November—at the same time?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Not nursing beds, those are chronic care beds. Okay. I think I have about 189 of those allocated right now.

JURORS' FEES

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Attorney General. In the light of the increase in charges of conspiracy, particularly drug-related charges, the normal length of trial of which is anywhere between six and eight months, and in view of the fact that

businessmen, particularly the self-employed, are forced into near bankruptcy due to the length of service, when will the Attorney General consider raising the remuneration from \$10 a day so that the jurors will not become the victims and will thereby be truly the triers of the facts?

Mr. Shore: Tell him you are on a restraint programme.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, this matter was raised in the Legislature a few weeks ago and I indicated that this had been a subject matter of some discussion with—

Mr. Roy: We have been raising that for 10 years.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —the government and the municipal councils which have raised it from time to time. We have indicated that we would like to increase the jurors' fees and we don't doubt for one moment that jurors deserve a higher daily per diem rate than is now paid.

At the same time, I think it should be placed in context. I was looking at this matter the other day and many states in the United States pay less than we do on the basis that jury duty is recognized as a form of public service. And I can assure you, and I was discussing this matter as recently—

Mr. Cassidy: But not when it goes on for months.

Mr. Peterson: We'll have Americans coming up here to do jury duty.

Mr. Reid: That is something you can do something about.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Do the members want an answer or not?

Mr. Reid: Are you going to get a headline out of this one? If you don't get a headline you don't do anything.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the member for Rainy River.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: As recently as yesterday I met with the sheriff of the county of York and discussed this very problem, and this is a gentleman who is in daily contact with the jurors at least in the county of York, where more than half the jury trials in the province are held. He states there is very little complaining by jurors about the level of jurors' fees because they recognize the

important public service they are rendering and are content to do so.

Mr. Singer: Judicial district of York.

Mr. Roy: Do you think it is fair?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The oral question period has expired.

Petitions.

Mr. Nixon: Paid here as a public service and that explains a lot of your attitude.

Mr. Speaker: Presenting reports.

Motions. Would the hon. Leader of the Opposition please restrain himself?

Introduction of bills.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Ontario Energy Board Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I have introduced for first reading today an Act to amend the Ontario Energy Board Act. This amendment arises from the recent report of the Ontario Energy Board on "Customer Support for Arrangements to Secure Future Gas Supplies for Ontario."

The government has previously announced its support in principle for the inclusion in the rates charged customers amounts to reflect the costs of investments to obtain additional gas supplies for Ontario. The question of the appropriate procedures and criteria was referred to the Ontario Energy Board. The board recommended amendments to section 19 of the Ontario Energy Board Act. This bill reflects the recommendations of the board with one significant exception.

The central recommendation of the Board was that the Ontario Energy Board Act should be amended to provide that applications might be made to include a reasonable allowance for an investment made by a regulated gas distributor to secure additional gas supplies for Ontario. This amendment will permit Ontario's three major natural gas distributors to apply to have a reasonable allowance for the cost of their proposed investment in Canadian Arctic Gas Pipeline Ltd. reflected in their rates.

It is proposed that when the board considers the inclusion of the costs of such in-

vestments in the rates the distributor may charge its customer, the board would also consider the crediting of benefits from such investments to the customer.

The board's report envisaged applications relating to investments in a wide range of gas supply related activities, including pipelines, the manufacture of synthetic natural gas, coal gasification and exploration and development for new supplies. The proposed bill provides that applications may be made in relation to specific types or kinds of investments that the regulations have permitted.

The policy decision to extend the possibility of customer support to a particular kind of investment therefore will be with the Lieutenant Governor in Council, rather than with the board. This is the one divergence from the board's recommendations. Initially, it is intended that applications be restricted to those in relation to natural gas transportation systems or arrangements to acquire additional natural gas for this province by purchase.

CONSUMER PRODUCTS WARRANTIES ACT

Hon. Mr. Handleman moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to provide for Warranties in the Sale of Consumer Products.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT (1)

Mr. Bullbrook moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Bullbrook: The Labour Relations Act doesn't presently refer to petitions or statements of desire. This bill prohibits the board's practice of considering petitions and statements of desire and thereby eliminates delays and reduces union certification costs.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT (2)

Mr. Bullbrook moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Bullbrook: This bill prohibits the use of professional strike-breakers.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT (3)

Mr. Bullbrook moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Lewis: Pretty incendiary stuff here. It breaks a lot of new ground.

Mr. Roy: Even you can understand it.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, I am understanding it.

Mr. Bullbrook: Mr. Speaker, this bill treats a lockout in the same objective manner as a strike in relation to the test for determining whether or not a lockout has occurred.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT (4)

Mr. Bullbrook moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Bullbrook: We're going to get to the Workmen's Compensation Act in October and the Industrial Safety Act in November.

Mr. Lewis: By then you will have expired.

Mr. Bullbrook: This bill limits the scope and extent of the supervisory exclusion under the Act.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT (5)

Mr. Bullbrook moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

An hon. member: When are you writing the Magna Carta?

Mr. Lewis: This is pretty weighty stuff. You'll probably bring in the whole trade union movement with these bills.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Bullbrook: Mr. Speaker, if I may, if you feel the explanations are too short for the Leader of the Opposition to understand them, then please let me know.

Section 2 of this bill extends the protection of the board's decision with respect to technical defects to the processing of grievances through to arbitration.

Mr. Renwick: Point of order: Isn't there some rule of the assembly that prevents the introduction of repetitious matters?

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, if I may speak to that point of order. Obviously, if there were such a rule we'd hear far less from the member for Riverdale.

Mr. Bullbrook: Mr. Speaker, by way of digression: Do you get a feeling that it's beginning to hurt?

Mr. MacDonald: Too bad you've got nothing substantive to share.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT (6)

Mr. Bullbrook moved first reading of bill intituled An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Mr. Davison: How many more, Jim?

Mr. Cassidy: There are two supporting it, and we are not sure about the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini).

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The member for Sarnia has taken Morty's place.

Mr. Bullbrook: Mr. Speaker, this bill provides finality to the grievance arbitration procedures; subject, of course, to Jean-Luc Pepin.
[3:15]

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT (7)

Mr. Bullbrook moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Bullbrook: Mr. Speaker, this bill restricts the availability of cease and desist relief under the Act in the case of organizational picketing which is carried on on a peaceful basis, and imposes a duty on the board to ensure, prior to its using cease and desist relief, that police assistance has been unsuccessful in controlling the problem.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT (8)

Mr. Bullbrook moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Bullbrook: Mr. Speaker, this bill enables the board to arbitrate a first collective agreement and thereby eliminates the irreconcilable differences between the bargaining process and the first agreement.

Mr. Speaker, there is a final bill that I would like to put forward, and in deference, if I may, to my colleague from Riverdale there is somewhat of a redundancy. Our colleague, the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Boun-sall), put forward Bill 107 and we found it so inept and skeletonized that we had to put a new one in of our own.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT (9)

Mr. Bullbrook moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Bullbrook: Mr. Speaker, this is a somewhat larger explanation, but I need, with your indulgence, to make it in view of the bill that I referred to previously. This bill adds to the Act a provision dealing with the rights and privileges of trade unions and employees in the event of an employer's implementation of significant technological change.

An employer who is bound by a collective agreement and who proposes to effect a technological change that is likely to affect the terms and conditions or security of employment of a significant number of his employees must give notice of the technological change to the union at least 90 days prior to the date on which it is to be effective. An employer who fails to give such notice may be forced into compliance by the board.

When the union receives notice of the technological change, it may apply to the board for an order granting leave to serve on the employer a notice to commence collective bargaining for the purpose of revising the existing provisions of the collective agreement that relate to the terms and conditions or security of employment, or including new provisions in the agreement relating to such matters to assist the employees affected by the technological change to adjust to the affects of it.

Similarly, upon such application having been made by the union, the employer is not able to effect a technological change until the board's disposition of the application. This reopens the collective bargaining for the

purpose of negotiating the impact of the technological change and, where necessary, enable the parties to resort to economic sanctions.

REPORT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, may I have your permission to file an annual report which should have been filed earlier, but you moved to bills so quickly? I think they're in the process of being distributed to the hon. members.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry presented the annual report of the Ontario Municipal Board.

Mr. Speaker: Before the orders of the day I should inform the House that pursuant to provisions of standing orders 27 and 28, the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr) has given notice that he is dissatisfied with the response given to his question by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) on June 10, concerning the effect of fluorescent light on milk products. The matter will be debated at 10:30.

There will be two further items which will be raised as a result of question period of Monday, June 14. The member for Durham East (Mr. Moffatt) will debate the question of the Oshawa Second Marsh and Darlington Provincial Park with the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier). The matter of the closing of arenas will be raised with the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) by the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock).

ANSWER TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day I want to make some references to question No. 29 which was on order paper No. 10. On March 30 this year a question was asked by Mr. Angus and on May 18 an answer was tabled. I wish to file a correction to that answer which I would draw to the attention of the members of the House. (See appendix, page 3349.)

Mr. Singer: Your research isn't so good, eh?

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

FARM INCOME STABILIZATION ACT

Hon. W. Newman moved second reading of Bill 96, An Act respecting Farm Income Stabilization.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, when I introduced Bill 96 I explained it would extend the protection of farm income stabilization to every producer of every agricultural commodity in Ontario. It's a straightforward plan—that's one of the beauties of it—but its provisions may have been obscured by some of the political confusion and misleading statements we have heard since. For this reason, I want to review very briefly how the Ontario Farm Income Stabilization Act will work.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: A Crown commission of five or more members will be appointed to administer a permanent stabilization fund for commodities they name. These commodities will be supported at a level equal to 90 per cent of the average market price for them over the previous five years, adjusted for increases in production costs. This means farmers covered by the Act will be protected when market prices drop below that level.

The fund will make payments to tide them over until prices rise again. The government won't interfere with the delicate supply and demand mechanism of the marketplace. When the market's free functioning results in good farm prices the producers will enjoy their full benefit. The traditional farming cycles will continue but their low points will no longer threaten a farmer's ability to keep producing food. Basically, the plan is as simple as that.

We have chosen to operate the plan at the same level as the federal farm income stabilization programme. We have always said stabilization should be a national programme and we will continue pressing Ottawa to extend and improve the scope of its legislation on a nationwide scale.

Meanwhile, the Ontario plan will not apply to farm products already covered federally. It would be superfluous. The Ontario Act has a distinct advantage over the federal one.

Mr. Lewis: It would be what?

Hon. W. Newman: In special circumstances the stabilization commission could provide extra support for specific commodities above the 90 per cent base level. This would be a temporary measure in hard times. It would not conflict with the marketing systems in other provinces.

Bill 96 also excludes farm products already regulated by producer marketing boards that both set prices and allocate production quotas

in line with the market demand. Dairy products, poultry and eggs, fall within this category.

This system is already working well. It has stabilized consumer prices considerably and brought the producers consistently fair prices that would make additional protection unnecessary. Take eggs, for example. Our producers have been able to earn a steady return of about seven per cent on their investment. The bottom won't fall out of their market so they won't need the stabilization plan.

The benefits aren't limited to the farmer, of course, the consumer wins, too. In 1951, an hour's average earnings would buy 18 eggs. Today, even with fewer farmers selling eggs, an hour's wages on average will buy about 66 eggs.

However, as I said, these are unusual cases. Apart from them, the farmers of Ontario don't want restrictions on their productivity and the government of Ontario doesn't want to impose any such restrictions. We want to interfere as little as possible with the individual farmer's production and marketing decisions.

If we brought forward the type of programme advocated by the New Democratic Party, and apparently supported by the Liberal Party, we would be heading down the road to overall supply management on every farm in this province. There are those who are free enterprise thinkers and those at the other end of the scale who want to push us down the road to socialized agriculture. These people would kill the farmer's incentive to grow food for the remaining 95 per cent of the population in this province. They would tell the farmer what he has to do and how much he would have to produce.

Mr. Davison: Who wrote that for you?

Mr. Bain: We want to make sure they get a decent income.

Hon. W. Newman: That is the only way any government could guarantee—

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: —the farmer his full cost of production without encouraging overproduction and flooding the delicate market mechanism with surpluses.

Make no mistake about it, if you made farming a sure thing, you'd have to make bureaucratic control of farming a sure thing. That's the last thing the farmers of Ontario want. I know lots of them who would give up farming rather than submit to it.

Mr. MacDonald: Sounds like the same man who wrote the Premier's speech in the campaign.

Hon. W. Newman: All they want is a helping hand when they have a bad year. That is precisely what we are offering and all we are offering.

Mr. MacDonald: It shatters my faith.

Hon. W. Newman: And remember another very important point, under the British North America Act the Province of Ontario has no control over imported farm products. Our producers control one-third of Canada's agricultural output. Does anyone imagine we could subsidize our farmers' full cost of production without retaliation by the US? Since the effects of that retaliation would be felt across this country, does anyone imagine the government of Canada could permit us to continue? Maybe those who talk glibly of the glories of socialized agriculture can ignore such unpleasant realities. But our farmers know better.

The NDP agriculture and food critic has claimed that Bill 96 would cover only 12 to 15 per cent of farm production based on value. The NDP agriculture and food critic is wrong again.

Mr. Lewis: Good grief!

Hon. Mr. Bernier: What else is new?

Mr. MacDonald: We will come to that.

Hon. W. Newman: The commodities eligible for coverage by this plan represent 27 per cent of Ontario agriculture. Apart from those covered federally and the special exceptions I've mentioned, we'll cover everything raised and grown in this province.

We calculate that the proposed stabilization plan would have cost roughly \$5 million to \$7 million if it had been in effect last year. Adding the payments of \$22.5 million under the cow-calf stabilization programme, this would have meant a total expenditure of close to \$30 million.

In any year the programme's cost will depend on changes in farm prices and costs. Last year prices were generally favourable. But in some years payments from the stabilization fund could reach as high as \$36 million, not counting those under the cow-calf programme. In fact, I could cite a hypothetical example where poor prices for only two commodities could result in payments close to \$10 million.

The cow-calf programme will operate independently until the government's contracts

with producers expire in 1980. We have allocated \$25.6 million for the cow-calf programme in this fiscal year. If calf prices continue to improve and we don't spend it all, some of that money could probably go into the general stabilization fund. If not, all the money we need for the first year will be available from the consolidated revenue fund.

We have a programme that fits the farmer's need and fits the government's anti-inflationary constraints on its own spending. I have travelled the length and breadth of this province talking to farm groups. There are certainly two schools of thought. Some farmers want a low degree of stabilization, some want a higher level. But, by and large, the farmers don't want anything that smacks of handouts. All they want is a bit of help to let them keep doing their job during the lean years, and that is what we are providing.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: I want Bill 96 to go forward in its present form to the standing committee on resources development. At that stage, I want all the agricultural groups and individuals to be given the opportunity and I expect them to exercise their rights to speak on this bill.

Mr. Lewis: That's a death-bed switch.

Mr. MacDonald: You sound like Smith in Rhodesia—you concede the right only after the war has begun.

An hon. member: One Smith or another Smith.

Hon. W. Newman: The executives of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture have publicly criticized the bill. They expect to discuss its details in committee and spell out their objections.

The provincial board of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario have expressed full support of the principles behind this bill. But they too want to discuss its details in committee. Let me remind the House of their warning to the opposition parties in their own words:

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario is deeply disturbed that you and your party have gone to the brink of taking our present government down over a policy that is sound while your own ideas on stabilization are both vague and unworkable in the view of many of Ontario's farmers.

[3:30]

Mr. Bain: What about the Ontario Federation of Agriculture?

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: The message could not be stated more clearly; it must not be ignored.

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association has presented me with a brief saying the majority of Ontario beef producers want an income stabilization programme that would protect them against a financial disaster but would not be an incentive to production. The association warned against letting the issue become a political football; that warning must not be ignored.

The politicians will be heard today. The majority in this House will decide whether political expediency is to deny the farmers their right to be heard through the normal democratic process.

Mr. Samis: Who wrote that?

Hon. W. Newman: Each member who votes on second reading has a decision to make: He can let the farmers of Ontario speak on a bill that affects them so vitally, or he can turn it into a political football and accept the consequences.

The line between right and wrong is clear-cut. No amount of clever talk or contrived explanations will serve to obscure that line after the vote is taken.

Mr. Foulds: That's debatable.

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, apart from the rhetoric and the political tub-thumping from the Minister of Agriculture and Food, I would say his comments on the introduction to second reading were superfluous.

Let there be no doubt from the outset that the New Democratic Party is unalterably opposed to this bill; and if this government has to take refuge in the fact that the smallest farm organization in this province is on its side, while the other two farm organizations are unalterably opposed, then the government is taking refuge in the little residue of support that it has, and it is a testimony to the position the government has taken.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: The farmers are with us.

Mr. Wildman: You're in trouble.

Mr. MacDonald: We are unalterably opposed to the bill and, according to the media reports, so is the Liberal Party.

Mr. Deans: Up until now—as far as we can tell.

Mr. MacDonald: That means this bill is going to be defeated.

Mr. Haggerty: Speak for yourself, Don.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

An hon. member: Aren't you against it?

Mr. Deans: Here we go again.

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for York South should continue.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I know that everything around Queen's Park is subject to change without notice. I always thought it was more without notice in the Liberal Party; last week, I thought it was the Tories. Don't you prove me wrong.

Mr. Riddell: Get on with it. Who are you to prejudge?

Mr. MacDonald: Are you disturbed? I have been reading—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member for York South direct his remarks through the Chair?

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I will direct my remarks to you. I was quoting what I read the leader of the Liberal Party had said, and therefore I didn't think I was prejudging the Liberal Party. But if the agricultural critic thinks I am wrong, perhaps I should take his advice as a little bit of warning.

Mr. Sweeney: He didn't say you were wrong; he said speak for yourself. There is a difference.

Mr. MacDonald: This is going to leave the government in an indefensible position. Having retreated from its earlier position of a contributory insurance plan and introduced a bill which this House cannot support, this government is going to leave the farmers of Ontario with no provincial farm income protection legislation.

Hon. W. Newman: That will be up to you.

Mr. MacDonald: That's just the point.

Mr. Lewis: Thank you for the invitation.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you for saying that is up to us; we accept the challenge, because so far the government has said it is not going to be a vote of no confidence in the govern-

ment, which is what it should be. However, I think the farmers are entitled to something better than that. The paramount concern is not whether or not there is confidence in the government; the paramount concern is whether or not this Legislature, if not with the leadership of the government then at least with the leadership of the opposition, shall bring in legislation that meets the needs of the people of the Province of Ontario.

It is for that reason, Mr. Speaker, that I gave notice yesterday, as the rules require, that we will introduce a reasoned amendment, and I want to introduce it now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. MacDonald moves that Bill 96, An Act respecting Farm Income Stabilization, be not now read a second time, but be referred back to the government to have incorporated therein principles of a farm income insurance plan which would be open to the producers of all farm products on a voluntary basis with assurance that the government provide a public forum for full discussion with the farm community before reintroduction of the bill.

Some hon. members: Carried.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, let me—

Mr. Evans: You're backing down.

Mr. MacDonald: Backing down? We're reiterating the position that we have put down.

Mr. Lewis: We're right on it.

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, for the benefit particularly of the hon. member for Simcoe Centre (Mr. Evans), let me remind him of what has happened in the government's position. It has altered it significantly. It has retreated from its original position—don't take my word for it; it speaks for itself. I have here, for example, the famous statement of a month or so ago, *A Strategy for Ontario Farmlands*, and on page 11 there is a paragraph which reads as follows:

The second major policy concerns provincial agricultural development strategy and provides for (a) a provincial commodity income stabilization plan providing farmers with a contributory [may I repeat that] . . . a contributory income assurance plan covering major commodities.

Mr. Lewis: What happened?

Mr. MacDonald: It goes on, "The government will have more to say about this vital

new programme during the next few months."

I don't know how much more we're going to hear. It's down the drain. It's not included in the bill. It wasn't only them. The minister has not only double-crossed the farmers, he's even double-crossed his parliamentary assistant. On March 31, he was speaking to a meeting in Stoney Creek and at that meeting, as reported in the *Globe and Mail*, "Mr. Eaton said the plan would be voluntary and contributory on the part of the farmers."

We have no contributory plan. The minister has come in with a different kind of plan. It's not only different in that it lacks the contributory aspect which the farmers have been seeking but in many other ways. I'll get around to that in a moment.

The Conservative government of Ontario now proposes to inaugurate a farm income stabilization programme along precisely the same lines of the Liberal programme in Ottawa, despite consistent criticisms—

Mr. S. Smith: Sometimes known as the federal government.

Mr. MacDonald: —of that programme as being inadequate. It is not what organized agriculture in Ontario has demanded. It is not what the farmers need. For the second year in a row this government has deceived the farmers with promises and then it has sold out in the performance.

For these reasons, in summary, we cannot support this bill. To support it would be a betrayal of what we believe to be the basic needs of agriculture. It would be a betrayal of what we are committed to implement when the electorate grants power to the NDP in this province. With legislation like this being the best that the Tories are willing and able to offer, that will be sooner than some members of the front benches realize.

For reasons that mystify me, this government is arrogantly rebuffing the agricultural community which has traditionally been the sheet anchor of the Tory party's political support.

Before I proceed further with a detailed critique of the principle of the bill, let me make two general comments. In one sense I want to congratulate the government. It's about the only thing in connection with this bill I can congratulate it on.

For years this government has stubbornly refused to accept any responsibility for farm income levels. The Tories have insisted that this was a federal responsibility. They did so in spite of the fact that under our consti-

tution, agriculture is a responsibility which is shared between the two senior levels of government. Having finally accepted the principle of provincial government responsibility, they have proceeded to deal with it in a hopelessly inadequate way, but more of that in a moment.

The next general point that I want to make is this, Mr. Speaker. The time has come, I submit to members of this Legislature, for a clear distinction to be drawn between what the Liberals in Ottawa and the Tories at Queen's Park now describe as farm income stabilization and the farm income insurance programmes which have been legislated by the governments of British Columbia and Quebec, and are under consideration by two or three other provincial governments. They have also been arbitrated in Ontario for more than a year by organized agriculture through the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the National Farmers Union.

Income stabilization as operated by the Liberals in Ottawa and now proposed by the Tories in Ontario is a stop-loss programme. It proposes to subsidize farm prices from the public treasury whenever they drop below 90 per cent of the average of the last five years. As farm costs—taxes, gasoline, oil, hydro, machinery, fertilizer and so on—are rising every year, prices over the past five years are both irrelevant and inadequate. To take 90 per cent of those costs as a base for calculating this year's prices is adding insult to injury.

In short, farm income stabilization is designed to keep farmers from going broke altogether, but it certainly is not going to keep them from forsaking the land in the fashion that over 40 per cent have done in the last decade. Nor is it going to reduce the growing majority of part-time farmers who must take a second job in order to sustain their families, although they would dearly love to spend all their time working on the farm.

In contrast, Mr. Speaker, farm income insurance is a programme which envisages ideally provincial and federal governments entering into equal partnership with farmers to build an insurance fund. Farm prices will be negotiated each year by the governments and the appropriate farm organization so as to cover the costs of production, plus a full return on investment, management and labour. When market prices drop below the negotiated price for any commodity, the difference will be made up from the fund. Just as crop insurance covers the loss of

crops, so income insurance compensates for the loss of prices.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, from this point forward, the sloppy interchange of the words "stabilization" and "insurance" in reference to farm income should cease, for they are distinctly different concepts. The NDP opposes farm income stabilization because it is a stop-loss measure. The NDP pioneered farm income insurance in British Columbia. It is being duplicated in Quebec. It is a programme advanced by organized agriculture in Ontario.

Hon. W. Newman: What happened in BC?

Mr. MacDonald: I will tell the minister what happened in BC. Look, his ministry is so bankrupt that he has got to drag in irrelevancies to try to cover up the bankruptcy. If the minister is not aware of the fact, the one plank in the NDP platform and its legislative records which the Social Credit government pledged in advance to live up to and has lived up to since is to maintain and to strengthen and to expand their farm income insurance programme.

Mr. Wiseman: It was too rich for them out there and you know it.

Mr. Eaton: You quote my speeches from Stoney Creek. Why don't you refer to the fellow from BC who—

Mr. MacDonald: Farm income insurance promises at long last, Mr. Speaker, to establish agriculture on an economically sound basis.

Mr. Wiseman: Too rich for them.

Mr. MacDonald: That is why organized agriculture is seeking it in Ontario, and that is why the NDP supports it.

Mr. Wiseman: That's why the NDP were defeated.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, the minister made a highly misleading statement on page 3 of the introduction of this bill. I have his original text, sir, referred to on page 3. After he had repeated all his discomfort and dissatisfaction with the inadequacies of the federal plan, he then said:

In the absence of a comprehensive, meaningful national programme, British Columbia and Quebec have meanwhile legislated their own provincial programme. Reluctantly, the government in Ontario decided to do likewise.

I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that is highly misleading. It suggests that Ontario is legislating the same kind of plan that BC and Quebec has done. It isn't.

[3:45]

Mr. Lane: It is much better.

Mr. MacDonald: It isn't. BC and Quebec have legislated farm income insurance to compensate for the inadequacies of the federal. This government has accepted the federal inadequate coverage and is just extending it to other products in the province.

Hon. W. Newman: Look what they did with the price of milk out there.

Mr. Ferrier: The Tories and the federal government are in the same bed now.

Mr. MacDonald: Which brings me to the scope of this bill. The minister once again, in his usual fashion, said we had done our homework wrongly, in terms of the fact that this bill only covers some 12 to 15 per cent of the farm produce in the Province of Ontario, the rest of it being covered by the designated products under farm income stabilization in Ottawa, and by those products which are covered under supply-management and marketing boards in the Province of Ontario.

Interestingly enough, the figure of 12 to 15 per cent was included in the public release that was put out by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture when the bill was first introduced last week. The government is insisting there are 27 per cent of products that are not covered. Let me just try to indicate to you, Mr. Speaker, so that we perhaps can avoid getting into another futile battle of figures, how that gap is bridged. The federal stabilization plan covers some 50 per cent, more than 50 per cent; the marketing boards cover some 20-odd per cent.

Hon. W. Newman: That is not correct at all.

Mr. MacDonald: That brings us to the gap—brings us up to the 87 per cent that is covered some way or another. Culled cattle in the Province of Ontario represent 6¾ per cent and calves represent 1½ per cent. Apples represent one per cent and potatoes represent one per cent—both of which are likely to be designated by the federal government this year to expand their coverage. Winter wheat is already covered by the federal government—under C-19, as a supplement to Bill C-50—and it represents two per cent. Indeed, it is now said it is likely the federal government

may move to cover dry beans and maple products.

In other words, the gap between the 12 to 15 per cent, which is all this government now covers, is likely to be covered either by the federal government in products that are now under consideration for designation, or has been covered—such as winter wheat—or is in areas where there is likely to be no insurance at all, such as, for example, culled cows and culled bulls, as farmers are weeding them out from their herds, so to speak.

I am not going to quibble on the figure, but the figure at this point is in the range of some 15 per cent, and the odds are very high that when the federal government has concluded its review for this year it will remain at that. That is the reason Gordon Hill, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, stated when the bill was introduced last week, and I quote:

What the legislation provides is a stabilization programme identical to the federal stabilization programme, which Newman himself declares to be inadequate. "The provincial programme is to cover farm products not covered by the federal plan and not covered under the Ontario marketing boards, which set both prices and quotas. Preliminary calculations indicate this means that 87 per cent of the Ontario farm products will not be eligible for support under the legislation," and that, to say the least, is highly discriminatory.

[Gordon Hill added:] I just can't understand why the minister bothered to bring in such legislation. He is putting in place provincial programmes, identical to the federal programmes, because the federal programmes are inadequate. Surely, if the federal programmes are inadequate, the provincial programmes will be equally inadequate.

There is an inexorable logic about that.

The New Democratic Party believes there should be a three-fold programme, a three-pronged approach: first, that farm income insurance should be based on the current year's costs of production as negotiated by the farmers with their governments, so as to give the farmers a share in the decisions that vitally affect their lives; second, that the government should work with farmers, whose organizations have accepted the obligation, to develop effective supply-management programmes so that adequate prices will not lead to undue food surpluses; and third, in order to cope with surplus production while effective supply management is being developed, the government should establish regular fund-

ing which will assure systematic disposal of surpluses, at home through school milk programmes or provision of foods to needy families; or abroad through responding to the churches in their request for government dollars to match voluntarily raised dollars to assist in international food aid and development programmes in the third world.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to deal for a moment with the financial implications of this whole thing, because interestingly enough, when the minister was advancing this bill he contended he had chosen a programme, and I quote: "Tailored to our means as well as our needs." I've indicated that it isn't going to meet our needs, let me now just focus for a moment on our means.

What would an appropriate kind of farm income insurance programme—such as has been advocated by organized agriculture with the exception of the Christian Farmers Organization—what would it cost in the Province of Ontario? I just want to create a context without going into the detail.

Last year William Stewart, then Minister of Agriculture and Food, said that if a BC-style plan were established in the Province of Ontario it would cost in the range of \$140 million to \$150 million. That, incidentally, was because of the fact that the provincial government would be paying two-thirds of the premium since the federal government isn't in the picture; it would be less, when and if, the federal government is willing to get into the picture.

This year the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, having presented a programme and then studied the implications of its cost in their brief to the government—indicated that the cost would be in the range of \$92 million. Indeed Mr. Speaker, it could be less than that, if you operate on the basis that is now operative in British Columbia, where if a product price drops and it's one that is designated in the federal stabilization plan, what the BC government is doing today, the Social Credit government in BC, is accepting the support price of the federal stabilization price as the market price, and they supplement beyond that up to what they deem to be the appropriate support price after negotiation with the farmers within the province of BC.

Now here we have ball park figures. Bill Stewart said \$140 million; the OFA said \$80 million to \$90 million, something less than that if you were to top-load in the fashion that is now being done in British Columbia—apparently an acceptable procedure in spite of

the past statements of the federal Minister of Agriculture.

Contrast that with last year's budget of this government, when they brought in a sales tax rebate to industry on production machinery, which amounts to \$150 million handout to industry, presumably for the bolstering of employment opportunities in the Province of Ontario. You have a set of priorities. Nobody has yet come up with any convincing evidence that this government's handout to industry has produced the jobs that allegedly was the reason for that tax concession. But it's \$150 million.

We are talking in terms of a figure that would be distinctly less than that, and which would underpin the security of the agricultural industry in the Province of Ontario. Now that obviously isn't your priority. But, Mr. Speaker, let me say to the government and, through them to the people of the Province of Ontario, that is our priority.

If you want to judge just how inadequate is the programme that the government has brought forward, take a look, in context of those figures, at what the government says it's going to be spending for the stabilization programme, covering only a small fraction of produce, something in the range of \$5 million or \$6 million or \$7 million.

Hon. W. Newman: That is not right, sir.

Mr. Nixon: You said \$5 million to \$7 million.

Mr. MacDonald: You said that's what it would have paid last year, you're not sure exactly what it will be this year but that's the sort of ball park.

Hon. W. Newman: You don't know from year to year, that's why you have a programme in place to help the farmers. It may be a lot more.

Mr. MacDonald: Let me make another point, if I may, Mr. Speaker, in the financial area. One of the problems today in agricultural production, when it gets through to the consumer, is the cost to some people in our society. I don't want to get into an argument. I will agree with you that food, as a cost of hourly rating or as a percentage of income is no higher in Canada than any other country in the world. Indeed, maybe it is cheaper. That still doesn't mean that it is not too high for those who are on fixed incomes and on low incomes, and sooner or later—indeed before the last federal election we faced this in Canada; there was a public decision that something should be done to

reduce these high costs to people for whom the price of food was getting beyond their budget and they brought in a consumer subsidy.

Farmers are opposed to consumer subsidies, and I don't blame them for being opposed to consumer subsidies, because consumer subsidies are sort of a political weapon that is used at the appropriate time in the election cycle for vote-getting purposes, and after the government has given a subsidy before an election, it takes it off afterwards, and the net result is that the market price has to bounce up, not only to compensate for rising costs but to compensate for the consumer subsidy which is being removed. That's what happened on the five-cent milk consumer subsidy in the year 1974.

I want to suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that farm income insurance provides a more acceptable way of ensuring adequate farm incomes while holding consumer prices at a more moderate level, and just let me illustrate it another way. In 1950, in this province, 60 per cent of the consumer dollars spent on food went to farmers. By 1970, the farmers' share of the consumers' food dollar was reduced to about 35 cents. It has now risen, with rising prices of the last few years, to somewhere in the low 40s.

If the next time you as a consumer, Mr. Speaker, went to buy food and you discovered the \$1 you were paying for food last week was going to be \$1.05, you would likely mutter in the fashion that most shoppers do today, but if you were given some assurance that the extra five cents was going to get to the farmer, who does most of the work in producing the food, I suspect you wouldn't object so much.

The fact of the matter is that today the farmers' share of the consumers' dollar in terms of net income, what's left for him after he has paid his costs of production, is no more than 10 cents. So if the extra five cents that the consumer paid all went to the farmer it would increase the farmers' incomes overnight by some 50 per cent; gross income and net income, by 50 per cent.

It is that kind of making certain that if we are going to meet the needs of those who produce the food that we all need we should, through any subsidy out of the general treasury of the province, out of the consolidated revenue, make certain that it goes to the people who are producing the food and not to all that growing myriad of middlemen who are eating up more and more of the consumers' dollar.

Let me try to draw my remarks in terms of criticism of the bill, Mr. Speaker, to a con-

clusion. Ontario is always boasting about being the leading province, yet it's unwilling to lead. It copped out a few weeks ago on the basic issue of preserving farmland and it is now proposing to cop out on an income programme to preserve farmers.

OFA spokesmen have accurately described this legislation. Said Gordon Hill: "It is of almost no potential benefit to Ontario farmers;" and said secretary-manager Jack Hale of the OFA: "It is not worth the paper it's written on—hopelessly inadequate."

In contrast, the farm income insurance which organized agriculture advocates which the New Democratic party pioneered in BC and thereby provided a working model which we strongly support in the Province of Ontario would rescue agriculture from the boom-bust economy which has traditionally bedevilled it. It would assure the long-term security of the five to seven per cent of the population who produce our food and thereby serve the interests of the 100 per cent of the population who eat it.

[4:00]

That's why, Mr. Speaker, the New Democratic Party opposes this bill, but I repeat, we not only oppose it but we want to present a positive alternative, and so we have brought in this reasoned amendment which states that the bill should be referred back to the government, to have its second thoughts so to speak, to have incorporated therein the principle of the farm income insurance plan which would be open to all producers of farm products on a voluntary basis and then finally, at long last and not as a sop at the end of the process, an opportunity should be given to the farming community to have an impact on the bill. This is not what the government is proposing as an eleventh-hour effort through the minister's words this afternoon to be able to send it out after he has decided ex cathedra that these are the decisions and now they can come and respond to it.

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that the kind of amendment which I have just submitted as a reasoned amendment is the kind of thing that the people in the Province of Ontario and the agricultural community will support and indeed want. That amendment was drafted yesterday. This morning I was able to get a copy of the latest current issue of *Farm and Country* dated June 15. On the front page, there is a story, one paragraph of which reads as follows:

Hill [namely Gordon Hill] told *Farm and Country* on June 9 that the OFA still unequivocally demands that no commodity

be excluded from provincial stabilization programmes, that farmers and government share the costs and that there must be a clearly defined role for farmers.

Those are the three essential principles of our reasoned amendment, that it should cover all products, not just what is left over from Ottawa and the marketing board coverage in the Province of Ontario; that it should be a contributory plan so that the farmers are sharing in the costs; and, finally of course, that the prices each year should be negotiated with the farmers so that they have a meaningful role in it.

If the minister is a little puzzled as to how he can get a bill, I learned that the executive of the Federation of Agriculture met today and finalized something it has been working on for the past year, a model bill. I submit to the minister that he should get it because I think he would find that that model bill would be an implementation of our reasoned amendment.

Mr. Riddell: Before I launch out with my remarks on this bill, I simply have to hark back to the events which took place last Tuesday night when we seemed to have wasted an entire evening.

Mr. Wildman: I thought you would rather forget that.

Mr. Riddell: I've never seen such a look of dismay and disillusionment in all my life as I did on the face of the Leader of the Opposition when he learned that both opposition parties were going to oppose this bill and he suddenly discovered that this could well mean a vote of no confidence.

Mr. Moffatt: You misinterpreted that, my friend.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of privilege.

Mr. Riddell: So what do we see taking place now?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Point of privilege.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of privilege, it was quite the contrary. Had I realized that that's what was taking place last Tuesday night, I would have been exultant. I didn't understand what was taking place last Tuesday night. That's why—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That's not really a point of privilege.

Mr. Lewis: It was attributed to me and I'm correcting it.

Mr. Breithaupt: It is a point of misinformation.

Mr. Riddell: What we are observing now, I would say, is some political posturing on the part of the NDP because they have come in with a reasoned amendment which obviously has deficiencies which I will bring out later on in my speech.

Mr. Lewis: Are you going to support it?

Mr. Bain: Are you against the farmers?

Mr. Riddell: If ever any bill showed that this government was bankrupt of ideas and ways to maintain a viable agricultural industry in Ontario, this is the one. I talk about the NDP posturing—

Mr. Moffatt: But you are going to support it?

Mr. Riddell: —but I think I can also make reference to the posturing that is done by the Minister of Agriculture and Food. In November last year, he gave a speech to the annual convention of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. I want to simply quote some of the remarks he made. He said:

A true stabilization plan must assure the farmer he will receive a price based on the production costs of the day. In our view, this adjusted cost should cover all the farmer's operating costs plus a certain percentage of family labour, management and net investment costs. And this is why I'm calling for a national formula for true joint funding at three levels, federal, provincial and farmer.

We see this being done in two steps. First, Ottawa sets the floor on farm prices to prevent farmers being driven from the land. This could be 90 per cent of the average price or the past three years and the federal government would pay all producers when the price fell below that level.

Secondly, any support above 90 per cent should be provided by the joint federal-provincial producer programme and would apply only to those producers who joined voluntarily. Every dollar paid in by a participating producer would be matched by Ottawa and Queen's Park. A reasonable production cost figure would be established annually for each commodity; then, whenever the 90 per cent support is less than the cost of production and when the market price is less than the cost of production, a payment could be made from the fund to enrolled producers.

Our proposal envisages a minimum 90 per cent guarantee to all producers plus a joint federal-provincial producer programme [plus a joint federal-provincial producer programme] to guarantee higher support to those producers who voluntarily contribute to an income stabilization plan for a particular commodity.

The minister has done a 180-degree turn.

Hon. W. Newman: No, I have not done a 180-degree turn.

Mr. Riddell: You've done a 180-degree turn.

Mr. Nixon: Yes, you have. You've turned right around.

Hon. W. Newman: Did the member read my statement when I introduced the bill? We've been trying for three years to get his friends in Ottawa to move off their butts.

Mr. Nixon: That's why we have a provincial ministry. Why can't you save the farmers of the province?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order please.

Mr. Riddell: You are always trying to blame everything on the federal government.

Hon. W. Newman: No, I'm not. That's why—

Mr. Riddell: And if they don't act you'll sell our farmers down the drain. That's exactly what you're prepared to do.

Needless to say, this legislation is a copout and a sham. It will be of little benefit to Ontario farmers and if any benefit does accrue—

Mr. MacDonald: The same as Ottawa's.

Mr. Riddell: —it will affect very few farmers. I'm not supporting Ottawa's plan. We're talking about the provincial one.

This bill is a deliberate plot on the part of the minister to lead Ontario's farmers to believe that he has their interests at heart, knowing full well that he is hiding under the guise of the federal programme and knowing full well that funding from the province will be minimal because so few commodities will be covered under this legislation.

Unfortunately, the minister has been stamped with the same press as that of his predecessor. With all respect to his predecessor, as we all know, he did little for the farmers of this province by way of income protection other than provide loans so that farmers could borrow their way out of debt. "Prime Rate Plus One Willy" was the name which the former minister was tagged with.

Now, as a replacement at the helm, the farmers are blessed with "Stand Still Bill."

Mr. Eaton: You'll never make half the man he did and you know it.

Mr. Nixon: They didn't consider you for the job.

Mr. Shore: You should hear what he said about you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Eakins: You can learn something.

Mr. Riddell: You start working now on your next election, buddy, because I think you're in trouble.

Mr. Eaton: Speak for yourself.

Mr. Riddell: The minister sure isn't going to rock the boat with this legislation and, as has been so aptly put, the Ontario government has once again proffered its usual hollow carrot to Ontario's farmers.

Mr. Shore: It wouldn't be beet, would it?

Mr. Riddell: One thing we can say about the former minister is that he was consistent. He consistently denied the farmers any kind of an income stabilization plan.

Mr. Mackenzie: Try to understand it.

Mr. Riddell: The present Minister of Agriculture is anything but consistent—

Mr. Wildman: You should know about that.

Mr. Riddell: —and I would like to give some examples of his inconsistencies in connection with a farm income stabilization programme.

Mr. Laughren: The pot calling the kettle black.

Mr. Riddell: I quote from an address given by the minister to the Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association, in Toronto, on April 21, 1976:

That's why I will soon introduce a bill in the Legislature to set up the farm income stabilization programme in Ontario. It will be designed to dovetail with the federal agricultural stabilization Act but it can function quite well on its own if the federal government keeps stalling on its commitment of last July.

Hon. W. Newman: Right on.

Mr. Riddell: The fact is that the provincial programme is to cover farm products not

covered by the federal plan and not under Ontario marketing boards.

Mr. Shore: How do you handle that?

Mr. Riddell: Which means that about 87 per cent of Ontario farm products will not be eligible for support under the legislation. The provincial plan will not be able to function on its own without the federal plan.

In the same address he said, "My goal is to provide a base level of support for agricultural commodities that are not already under supply management and most are not."

I underline that—"and most are not." The fact is that the provincial programme will also not cover products under the federal stabilization plan. In an address that the minister gave to the annual dinner meeting of the central Ontario branch of the Ontario Institute of Agrologists in Toronto, Feb. 16, 1976, and I quote:

Ontario's position is clear. We want the Act used to give meaningful support levels to as many commodities as possible. We think the floor should be 90 per cent of the average market price for the commodity over the previous three years, not five years as Ottawa proposes.

The provincial plan states that commodities for which stabilization is made available will be supported at a level equal to 90 per cent of the average market price for the previous five years.

Mr. Shore: Darcy has conned you, Bill.

Mr. Riddell: What this legislation provides is a stabilization programme identical to the federal stabilization programme which the Minister of Agriculture and Food himself calls inadequate.

The provincial programme is to cover farm products not covered by the federal plan and not under Ontario marketing boards which set both prices and quotas. Preliminary calculations indicate that 87 per cent of Ontario farm products will not be eligible for support under the legislation . . .

So really this legislation is nothing more than a token gesture, and supposedly a fulfilment of the commitment made by the government in the Throne Speech that "provincial legislation will be introduced to establish a voluntary farm income stabilization plan," as "the long-term security of Ontario depends in great measure on the protection of our agricultural production."

I maintain that this bill is not going to do the job. The legislation for such a plan ex-

cludes commodities named under the federal Agricultural Stabilization Act as amended by Bill C-50 in 1975. The named commodities are those that must be supported by the federal government. For Ontario, those commodities are oats, barley, soya beans, corn, cattle, hogs, sheep and lambs, and industrial milk and cream. These represent about 51 per cent of farm cash receipts in Ontario in 1975.

Hon. W. Newman: It's 32.3 per cent.

Mr. Moffatt: Only 26 acres of land.

Mr. Riddell: Well, where do you get your figures? Mine come from a fairly reliable source. If yours are coming from the government I can understand it.

The provincial Act also excludes crops covered by a marketing board that both sets prices and producer quotas. Thereby, fluid milk, eggs and poultry are excluded. These constitute 20 per cent of Ontario farm cash receipts. Now what figure are you going to toss out this time? No comment? Okay, I will carry on.

Hon. W. Newman: It's 40.6 per cent.

Mr. Riddell: The minister said in a press conference that tobacco will not be covered under the plan, and this constitutes seven per cent of Ontario's farm cash receipts.

Hon. W. Newman: About 7.4 per cent.

Mr. Riddell: The provincial plan covers potentially wheat, rye, potatoes, fruits, vegetables, and minor crops and livestock, presumably mushrooms, rabbits, maple products and fish.

Mr. Cunningham: Parsley.

Mr. Riddell: However, Ontario winter wheat is covered under the federal Act to provide for payments in respect of wheat produced in Canada for human consumption in Canada. This support runs until 1980. Therefore, winter wheat, another two per cent of 1975 cash receipts, is effectively eliminated from the provincial plan for the foreseeable future. Spring wheat, used for feed, is a very small crop in Ontario.

The federal Agricultural Stabilization Act, Bill C-50, covers not only the named commodities which must be covered, but also specially designated commodities where support is needed at particular times. For example, greenhouse tomatoes and cucumbers are currently designated, and potatoes and sweet cherries were designated in 1975.

Hon. W. Newman: But not now.

Mr. Riddell: Presumably commodities that have national significance—for example, those that are produced in several provinces and have interprovincial and/or international trade significance—will be covered by the federal Agricultural Stabilization Act. Apples and potatoes would be prime examples, which represents another two per cent.

Hon. W. Newman: Now you are talking in favour of the federal bill and five minutes ago you were talking against it. I don't know where you stand.

Mr. Wiseman: He doesn't either.

Mr. S. Smith: He is just saying it is included in the federal bill. Just listen.

Mr. Riddell: That's right, listen, just listen. Beef calves are not interpreted to be cattle. That is, they are considered not a main or mandatory but only a potentially supported commodity by the federal government.

[4:15]

Mr. Whelan has said repeatedly he intends to support beef calves but it is doubtful that he will ever do so.

Hon. W. Newman: Why?

Mr. Shore: Go ask him.

Hon. W. Newman: You know why too.

Mr. Riddell: At any rate, in Ontario beef calves are outside the Agricultural Stabilization Act until 1980. This represents almost another two per cent of Ontario cash receipts.

In effect and in actual practice, the provincial Act will cover no more than a maximum of 15 per cent of Ontario farm production by value in 1975. Even this 15 per cent will be whittled down when anticipated federal stabilization programmes are announced for such crops as apples, carrots, summer pears and prune-type plums. Growers of these commodities have already asked for a stabilization programme under the federal Agricultural Stabilization Board, and we know from past experience that the federal Minister of Agriculture and the board have responded to such requests.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Ontario's largest organization of farmers, opposes the legislation in its present form, as is well known. This is quite significant, as more than 23,000 farm families in Ontario are OFA members. On top of this, the OFA membership includes 45 county and region

federations of agriculture plus 19 commodity marketing boards and associations. These include the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, Ontario Fresh Grape Growers' Marketing Board, Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board Processing Grapes, Ontario Greenhouse Growers' Marketing Board, Ontario Tender Fruit Growers' Marketing Board, Ontario Vegetable Growers' Marketing Board, Ontario Fresh Fruit Growers' Marketing Board and others.

The OFA's June 4, 1976, press release said: "The Ontario government's farm income stabilization legislation is of almost no potential benefit to Ontario farmers," says Gordon Hill, president of OFA."

The legislation before us falls far short of what is needed. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture asked for a voluntary farm income protection plan, paid for by government and farmers. We support this.

The minister has said that he too supports a shared-cost programme. In his June 3, 1976, statement to the Legislature, he said:

We envisaged a three-way partnership of the federal government, the provincial government and the Ontario farmers who chose to enrol in a plan covering a particular commodity.

In spite of this, the minister reported that the federal government was not ready to enter cost-sharing and is using this as an excuse for the province to shirk its responsibility to the farm community in Ontario. The end result is a betrayal of the farm community by the minister. He promised a rose and he delivered a thistle.

What is needed, and what the Liberal Party would deliver, is for the province to take the lead and pay part of the premium cost with the farmers until the federal government gives the go-ahead to enter shared-cost programmes. We favour an equal contribution by the province, the federal government and the farmers. The Liberal Party advocates an income protection plan or a farm income stabilization plan whereby a programme for a commodity would be developed if the majority of producers of that commodity gave support.

Participation by individual farmers would be voluntary. An independent agency to represent farmers, and to bargain with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, would be established by the general farm organization and the commodity groups such as marketing boards, associations, etc. This agency would work with government to establish the index to be used to determine the support price, and then would bargain with the government to set the exact support

levels. When average market prices for the year dropped below the support level, farmers would be paid the difference from the fund created by the premiums paid by farmers and governments. The Ontario plan would be devised to accommodate federal participation.

The legislation before us does not cover farm products already covered by federal legislation or products under marketing boards that set prices and quotas. As Gordon Hill says:

I can't understand why the minister has bothered to bring in such legislation. He is putting in place provincial programmes identical to the federal programmes because the federal programmes are inadequate.

Surely if the federal programmes are inadequate the provincial programme will be equally inadequate. The minister himself calls the federal stabilization programmes inadequate. It is worthy of note that on Thursday, the day of the minister's announcement, John Jansen, secretary-manager of the Ontario Chicken Producers' Marketing Board, said that due to fierce competition from broiler chickens coming in from the United States the marketing board was forced to price birds at slightly below the cost of production. Obviously stabilization programmes are needed, even by marketing boards that set quotas and prices.

The commission set up by this legislation will make farmer involvement a farce. The commission of not fewer than five members will be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The Lieutenant Governor in Council will also designate who is chairman and who is vice-chairman. Three people will constitute a quorum. Put this together with the fact that the minister has said that a representative or two from the ministry will probably be named to the commission, and what is the result? At a three-man meeting, or a quorum, government officials could rule the show.

Mr. Nixon: Right out of their hip pocket.

Hon. W. Newman: Why doesn't the member read the whole statement?

Mr. Riddell: The question in my mind is: How can a government appointed commission, paid for by government on a per diem basis and partly composed of government officials, possibly negotiate for farmers with the government? How can an Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food-mothered body negotiate with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food?

Now to make matters worse, this bureaucratic kingdom won't even have much to do, says Gordon Hill. The minister says if it was operative in 1975 it would only have shelled out between \$7 million and \$8 million; which is one-third of the cost of the single cow-calf programme last year.

Having condemned the bill for its obvious inadequacies, I will admit that the plan would cover a few crops, mainly fruits and vegetables, which are not automatically covered by federal legislation. In a bad year the federal Agricultural Stabilization Board does designate these crops for payment if merited. The provincial legislation would give them ongoing protection, although this means little because the federal government has been pretty responsive in bad years, as the fruit and vegetable industries admit.

The bill says the commission could provide for surveys and research relating to farm income stabilization and to obtain statistics for other purposes. Surely the massive existing bureaucracy can do this. One valid point on the government's side is that this plan will not disrupt trade between provinces.

In the 1976-1977 budget no money was allocated for this, the first year of the stabilization legislation. On April 22 the minister brought in a request for \$25.6 million in estimates for a farm income stabilization programme. If the cow-calf programme costs the same as last year, it will consume \$22 million of that \$25.6 million; and I know the minister is going to say the calf crop is going to be much better—

Hon. W. Newman: The member doesn't have any faith in the future of agriculture in this province, does he? He stands up there as a complete pessimist, as far as—

Mr. Riddell: Let's just wait.

Mr. S. Smith: How much will it cost?

Mr. Nixon: We have no faith in the ministry.

Mr. S. Smith: How much is it going to cost this year?

Hon. W. Newman: I don't know.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the hon. member for Huron-Middlesex has the floor.

Mr. Riddell: The little that remains could quite conceivably be spent to support the hollow carrot industry, which I referred to previously.

Now in summary, this bill lets the Lieutenant Governor in Council name a commis-

sion, of not fewer than five, to set stabilization support levels on farm products not covered by; first, the federal Agricultural Stabilization Act; or second, marketing boards setting farm-gate prices and quotas. The money for administration and pay-out comes from the consolidated revenue fund until March 31, 1977, and later will be passed by the Legislature.

Support levels will be based on 90 per cent of the previous five-year average market price for that crop or product. The support level can be adjusted up or down marginally from this figure because it is indexed to current cost of production. This calculation of support levels is the identical foundation of the federal legislation that the minister himself has been damning. It is a further example of the minister's inconsistency. Let me repeat that the minister said, "There are inadequacies in the federal programme," then he leaves anything that is covered by the federal programme under the inadequacies and sets up a provincial programme that's identical.

Mr. Nixon: Equally inadequate.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I don't think I have to tell you that we oppose the bill, and as I've already indicated, we find there are deficiencies in the reasoned amendment because the reasoned amendment does not put a time limit on the reintroduction of the bill, so presumably the darned thing could sit for quite a period of time.

Mr. Nixon: Or forever.

Mr. Riddell: Or forever. It doesn't indicate that the principles incorporated in the plan would be open to producers of all farm products on a contributory basis.

Mr. Lewis: That's what insurance means.

Mr. Riddell: Oh no. The reasoned amendment does not refer; there is no reference made to a contributory plan.

Mr. Wildman: It's insurance.

Mr. Riddell: You talk about voluntary but nothing about contributory.

Mr. Lewis: You are right on your first point, we accept it, but on the second you are deliberately fudging the issue.

Mr. Nixon: On the second one, you want to have it both ways.

Mr. Riddell: That's right.

Mr. Nixon: You want to go to the farmers and say it is free.

Mr. Shore: You can't suck and blow at the same time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Riddell: Finally, the reasoned amendment doesn't make any reference to the establishment of a legally constituted farm agency to negotiate with the government.

Mr. Nixon: Which is crucial.

Mr. Riddell: We're going to have more to say about this as the afternoon and the evening wear on, but I'm going to end my comments now and let my colleagues, many of whom come right from the farm, speak on this particular bill.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Bill 96, the farm stabilization bill.

Mr. Moffatt: Shame. Resign.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: I have listened with interest to the hon. member for York South (Mr. MacDonald), I have listened with interest to the hon. member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell), and I would have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I've listened many times to the farm people of this province from one end of this province to the other end. The farm people in this province want a fair price for the products they're going to produce. They don't want subsidy from the government of Ontario or the government of Canada. They want a guarantee, they want to enjoy the farm life, they want the free life that goes with the farm life.

A few minutes ago the hon. member for Cochrane South (Mr. Ferrier) was in the chair and I was going to suggest to him that I believe he has more knowledge of the farm community than all the rest of his caucus put together—all the rest of them.

Mr. Germa: I object.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: The hon. member for Sudbury objects.

Mr. Nixon: He knows how limited that member's knowledge is.

An hon. member: No, take a look at Sudbury.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: I will let him decide whether he has more knowledge than the rest of the House. I'm just comparing him to his own caucus.

Mr. Wildman: Whose figure is that?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: That could be debated too.

In listening to the member for York South, the asphalt farmer from York South—

Mr. Lane: The concrete farmer.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Oh, it is concrete now is it?

I always enjoy listening to the farmer from York South and his knowledge of the farm and the controls and what have you. What did we read in the paper this past weekend of his party? That they were going to take over the farmlands of Ontario and maybe sell them back to the farmer? Did I not read that in the paper?

Mr. Makarchuk: No, you didn't read it in the paper.

Mr. Moffatt: Depends on how you read it.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Maybe. If he is going to do that, why do we come up with any plan? Let's just think about that.

Mr. Nixon: That's called nationalist resources.

Mr. Makarchuk: You've been reading your toilet paper again.

[4:30]

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, that would take away all the free enterprise system that every farmer in this province has enjoyed. The reason behind them enjoying the farming is that they can sell their products and they can buy the farm they wish.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that if the New Democratic Party goes to the people with the type of ideas that they accepted at the recent convention, that they will not hold an agricultural seat in this province. I'm not sure, in looking over the speakers opposite, that any of them could really attach a tractor to a plough. I'm not sure.

Mr. Moffatt: We could put it in the right furrow, though.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: In fact, I am almost convinced that—

Mr. Shore: The NDP can shoot the bull, though.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: —they might try to hook the plough to the wrong end of the tractor.

Mr. Moffatt: But at least we recognize a tractor.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: The shameful part—

Mr. Lewis: The shameful part is that you won't deal with your bill. That is what's shameful about it. Forget all this perambulating nonsense and speak to the bill.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: The member for York South says: "Be not now read a second time." A shame. He is opposed to the farmers of Ontario. It's unbelievable that his party is opposed to the farmers of Ontario.

Mr. Nixon: My bird's-foot trefoil is not even covered in this. We should not be voting for it, either.

Mr. Shore: He is earning every nickel as Minister without Portfolio, to get up and say the things he is saying. He is earning every nickel.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I enjoyed listening to the member for Huron-Middlesex—

Mr. Eakins: How about the tile drainage money?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: I have been convinced over the years that the hon. member for Huron-Middlesex had the interests of the farmers at heart.

Mr. Nixon: And he still has.

Mr. Breithaupt: How do you feel now?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Today, I have to change my mind. I do so when he can stand up and say he's not supporting this bill; when he stood up the way he did today and not support Bill 96 of this Ontario Legislature.

Mr. Eakins: He knows what he is talking about.

Mr. McKessock: Tell us, what does it cover?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Yes, I am going to tell you. First off, Mr. Speaker, I want to make you aware of the Ontario receipts in 1975 that would not be eligible for the Ontario plan. This is what the member's friends in Ottawa feel they should cover; what is covered by other people.

Now, I'm not sure whether the members of the New Democratic Party will know what produce we're speaking about—they're not aware of them all. But No. 1 is supply man-

agement commodities. Dairy products, \$575,000,060, or 23.2 per cent of Ontario produce. Poultry, \$156,000,984, or 6.3 per cent. Eggs, \$97,000,281, or 3.9 per cent. Tobacco, \$188,000,756 or 7.4 per cent. This total of \$1,018,081,000—or 40.6 per cent of the total farm income for the Province of Ontario is covered by supply management.

Now, just to throw a word in there on supply management, we all recognize the problem that the industrial milk producer is faced with. Let me tell you Mr. Speaker, that genuine supply management in this Province of Ontario to the farm community is the responsibility of the weatherman. I'm sure anybody who understands farming would agree with me on that.

Mr. Eakins: Need more tile drainage money?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will come to that.

Mr. Eakins: The farmers are waiting.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Now, here are items that are covered under Bill C-50 of the government of Canada: soya beans, \$44,925,000, or 1.8 per cent; corn, \$152,715,000, or 6.1 per cent; hogs, \$236,000,000 or 9.4 per cent; sheep and lambs, \$4,875,000, 0.2 per cent; feed cattle, \$357 million, 14.3 per cent; barley, \$7,000,532, 0.3 per cent; oats, \$2,000,417, 0.1 per cent.

There are some small amounts of fruits that are added and will be added as I understand. Under Bill C-50 that's a total of \$805,000,753, or 32.8 per cent, for a total that are excluded from Bill 96 of \$1,823,000,834, or 72.8 per cent. If my mathematics serve me correctly, that would leave very close to 28 per cent.

Mr. Wildman: Probably not.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Such interjections add nothing to the debate.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: I enjoy them, Mr. Speaker, because as the time goes on I will look forward to the hon. members to correct my miscalculations.

Mr. Cunningham: Besides it gives you a little breather.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: It gives me an opportunity to think of something else.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: The farm people have an opportunity to think that the poli-

ticians over here are dumb. The farming community enjoy the hours they spend out on the tractor, they enjoy the hours that they spend and the long winter evenings when they are considering the crops they are going to grow the next year. This is all a part of the life of being involved in the farming community.

Mr. Makarchuk: They would enjoy it more if they had some money.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: I would say to the hon. member for Brantford that if he would speak to his colleague from Cochrane South he could sure inform him about the farming community.

I want to set out for the record for the House some examples of what Bill 96 would actually do. I am using totals here and I readily recognize that; in the area that I have mentioned here I just want to show the actual effect that the bill would have on these commodities.

I am not going to call the five-year prices. The price of potatoes in 1971 was \$2.50 per bag; in 1974, \$2.90 per bag; if the support price had been in effect in 1974, the potato growers would have received \$3.90 per bag. Other examples are: Corn, 1971, \$1.13 per bushel; 1974, \$2.75 a bushel. The support price for 1974 would have been \$1.85 per bushel. Hogs, 1971, \$26 per cwt; 1974, \$50 per cwt. The support price in 1974 would have been \$45 per cwt. Soya beans, 1971, \$3 per bushel; 1974, \$6.30 per bushel. The support price would have been \$3.90 a bushel. Winter wheat, 1971, \$1.75 per bushel; 1974, \$4.40 per bushel. The support price would have been \$2.25 a bushel.

Apples, 3.2 cents per lb in 1971; 7.15 cents per lb in 1974. The support price would have been 5.3 cents. Beef, 1971, \$35 per cwt; 1974, \$50 per cwt. The support price would have been \$45 per cwt.

In Ontario in 1965, my records show a production acreage of 7,488,000 acres. In 1975, they show me a figure of 7,665,000 acres.

Mr. Speaker, some of the members opposite have suggested that I get down to facts. What does the bill cover? Again, **Mr. Speaker—**

Mr. Cunningham: In conclusion.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: No, I'm a long way from conclusion.

Mr. Shore: What else is there?

An hon. member: Go ahead, Lorne, you're right on.

Mr. Warner: Resign.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: I looked over the records, **Mr. Speaker,** in some of the official opposition members' ridings. And I looked for the agricultural products in the ridings of those members. You know, I searched for a day or two—

Mr. Cunningham: Is that what you do?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: —and I can't find one. I can't find any over there.

Mr. Moffatt: Really? You have not looked at the right ones then.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: No, I can't find any over there, **Mr. Speaker.**

Mr. Warner: No wonder you guys lost.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: It's a sad day, **Mr. Speaker—**but that's the opposition; that is the only opposition. There are no farm products that I can find in the official opposition.

Mr. Shore: They are looking for someone.

Mr. Kerrio: There is one. There is one, Lorne.

Mr. Riddell: The farm communities recognize that, too.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: **Mr. Speaker,** the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (**Mr. Nixon**) —yes, he's here today.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: I'm going to quote a few products here, **Mr. Speaker,** from the riding he represents. Potatoes—

Mr. Shore: Potatoes are cheaper.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: —production in 1975, \$2 million. Winter wheat, \$5.2 million.

Mr. Nixon: I grow most of that myself.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: I would suggest that—no, I won't.

Mr. Nixon: Don't bother.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: No, I won't. It is better not to say it, **Mr. Speaker.** Rye—

Mr. Young: Tell us about the rye.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: —\$0.4 million. Dry beans—I couldn't find any record.

An hon. member: There are some there.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Weaning piglets, \$2.4 million.

Mr. Nixon: A lot of my neighbours make money out of that.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Very good, too. Weaning pigs has been a profitable business.

Beef calves and other cattle and calves, \$2.4 million.

Mr. Shore: When are we going to get on to the bill?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Fruits, \$2.4 million. Vegetables, \$5.4 million.

Mr. Eakins: Are you talking the bill out?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Miscellaneous, \$1.2 million. This is a total of \$21.4 million. Now, the census of 1971 shows that that particular area had 3,403 farms.

Mr. Ferrier: Is bird's-foot trefoil covered in that Act?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Yes, I would hope it is. I'll be in difficulties if it isn't.

Mr. Wiseman: The others don't know what bird's-foot trefoil is. Tell them.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: It just happens the next one I have is Lambton, and I know a little bit about that.

Potatoes, \$2.4 million. Winter wheat, \$4.7 million. Dry beans, \$0.6 million. Weaning pigs, \$4.2 million.

Mr. Nixon: And government cheques.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Beef calves, \$5.7 million. Fruit, \$0.7 million. Vegetables, \$1.8 million.

Mr. Angus: How much manure did they raise?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Miscellaneous, \$1.1 million.

Mr. Shore: What is that? Wintario grants?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: No cheques that I can see. The total is \$21.3 million. For the riding of Brant-Oxford-Norfolk it is \$21.4 million. It is very close. There are 3,622 farmers in my riding.

Mr. Riddell: Fifty-dollar bills hanging from the trees.

Mr. Shore: What have you got for London North?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: London North, Mr. Speaker, is in exactly the same position as that group over there. Exactly the same.

Mr. Nixon: Oh? Bill Stewart lives right in there.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, if there are any of the members over here who would like me to go further, I can.

Mr. S. Smith: Heaping abuse on London North like that is very nasty.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Let's get on to Huron-Middlesex. I'm sure the member for Huron-Middlesex is interested in these figures. I have a whole list of them and I'll be glad to give them to any of the members. Maybe I should do Waterloo North. No, he's not here today.

Mr. Riddell: He has gone to a funeral.

Mr. Eaton: That's good for the record.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: He's got a funeral, yes. Wellington South. Potatoes, nil.

Mr. Eakins: Turning the sod.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Winter wheat, nil. Rye, nil. Dry beans, nil. Weaning pigs, \$0.6 million. Beef cattle, \$0.8 million. Fruit, nil. Vegetables, \$0.2 million. Miscellaneous, \$0.1 million. The total is \$1.7 million for 434 farmers.

[4:45]

Mr. S. Smith: Are you sure you didn't bring in the wrong speech, Lorne?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: No, no. I will get to the riding of the official leader of the third party in a few minutes.

In Huron-Middlesex: Potatoes, \$0.3 million; winter wheat, \$1.7 million—

Mr. Wildman: This is ridiculous.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: —rye, nil; dried beans, \$3.7 million; weaning pigs, \$3.6 million; beef calves, \$6.8 million; fruits, \$0.5 million; vegetables, \$3.5 million—for a total of \$21.3 million for 2,759 farmers.

Mr. Shore: What about miscellaneous?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: It was away down, exactly the same as Lambton.

In the riding of the leader of the third party: potatoes, nil; winter wheat, nil; rye, nil; dried beans, nil; weaning pigs, nil; beef calves, nil; fruits, nil; vegetables, nil; miscellaneous, nil.

Mr. Nixon: Did you pay some researcher to prepare this for you and were public funds wasted on this?

Mr. Shore: What is the total?

Mr. Wildman: Now I know why he hasn't got a portfolio.

Mr. Nixon: Is this what the Minister without Portfolio does? Is this why we voted your \$5,000?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, the total of that particular riding is nil.

Mr. Kerrio: Did you have your researcher check that out?

Mr. S. Smith: That is not true; we have a nice garden.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think that fewer interjections will be much more satisfactory. The members can read it in Hansard tomorrow. Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: The member for Huron-Middlesex suggested that the minister's facts are not correct. I may have made some slight mistakes, Mr. Speaker, but I think if you checked most of these out, you would find any statements I have made to be very accurate, very close—in fact, as close as you could get them.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I have several more figures if any of the hon. members really want to know their ridings. I have them here—

Mr. Shore: If they were prepared by you, I feel—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, this bill will cover \$600 million of Ontario produce. Out of a gross total for Ontario produce of \$2.5 billion, 28 per cent of the total produce of Ontario is covered under this bill. I would suggest to the third party, if they had any consideration at all for the farmers of this province, that they would support this bill in order that we could give the farm people of this province what is rightfully theirs.

Mr. Shore: Do you really believe it's good?

Mr. Speaker: I have an announcement to make, but the Clerk is not at his seat, so I

can't make it. The hon. member for Durham East.

Mr. Moffatt: Mr. Speaker, I want to start by saying that I found that the previous speaker's remarks, and the whole tenor of that contribution to the debate, is completely in keeping with what the government feels is the nature of agriculture and its problems in Ontario; that is, that it's either funny or it doesn't exist.

I think the ridiculous parochial exercise he went through to indicate that only those people who have a certain amount of agricultural production in their riding are the ones who would be concerned with farming, is short-sighted and should be considered to be reprehensible. I do happen to have farms in my riding, and I would like to point out to the hon. minister that he can come and take a look at them at any time. They are not floundering along or starving; they simply think that this government's policies on agriculture have been totally irrelevant, as the member's speech was totally irrelevant.

Mr. S. Smith: He can make a speech on fertilizers.

Hon. W. Newman: Why doesn't the hon. member talk to some of the people in his riding—not only agricultural people?

Mr. Moffatt: I want to refer briefly to the comments made by the minister when he introduced the bill and tried to point out that any changes in the bill, as proposed by this party originally and as have been discussed by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and various other farm groups, would be totally impossible to put into effect.

[That's not particularly a brilliant statement to make either, because it seems to me in this province we can control the entry of food and food products in a variety of ways, if that indeed becomes necessary, to put a proper farm insurance programme into effect. There are health regulations. There are a variety of things.

Hon. W. Newman: Come on, grow up and learn a bit about agriculture. You have never heard about the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. You don't know what you are talking about.

Mr. Moffatt: There are a variety of devices which can be used. If the minister wants to trot out his irrelevant arguments about not having control over federal and foreign produce, those kinds of arguments can be made.

The whole business of trying to defend an indefensible bill has taken all of the tones of statistical nit-picking that I don't think is particularly good for agriculture or the citizens of this province.

It seems to me that we hear a lot of rhetoric lately about planning for the preservation of farm land. We hear a lot of people talking about the necessity of that. If you are ever going to plan to use farm land in its appropriate fashion as food production land then you must have some kind of stability in income for farmers. The bill that the minister has introduced did not include those kinds of provisions.

What we have attempted to do with our reasoned amendment is to put forward the kind of alternative the government could use. By consultation with the various commodity groups and people involved in agriculture, it would be possible to build into that plan the things which the farm community sees as necessary.

It is not by accident that the words, "full discussion with the farm community," appear in the reasoned amendment. The minister insists on using this business of saying that every time we talk about farm income it's some kind of socialist clap-trap that's going to destroy the Province of Ontario.

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of foolish response that is going to get him and his government into more and more trouble every day.

Hon. W. Newman: But you don't even want to give us that chance.

Mr. Moffatt: I talked to the minister or attempted to talk to him two days after the election at the World Ploughing match which, for the information of the member for Lambton, who has already left, was held in my riding last year.

Mr. Eaton: In yours the year before.

Mr. Moffatt: I'd like to point out that at that time, before the present Minister of Agriculture and Food was the minister, he was making statements totally counter to any kind of programme of farm income stabilization. That's the reason that this programme is being brought in in such a niggling fashion by this government. They have no commitment to the farm community and they intend not to do anything to protect the farm income of the farmers of this province.

It is time we had something done to make sure that farmers can have the kind of planning that people in the industrial and other

businesses are able to bring to bear to make sure that when they plan a year's production they will know something about what they are going to have at the end of it.

ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Just before we continue with the debate I have an announcement to make. I beg to inform the House that in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to assent to certain bills in her chambers.

Clerk of the House: The following are the titles of the bills to which Her Honour has assented:

Bill 54, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

Bill 55, the Regional Municipalities Amendment Act.

Bill 64, An Act to amend the Housing Development Act.

Bill 84, An Act to amend the Judicial Review Procedure Act, 1971.

Bill 90, An Act to amend the Life Stock Community Sales Act.

Bill 102, An Act to repeal the Municipal Subsidies Adjustment Act.

Bill 105, An Act respecting the Township of North Plantagenet.

FARM INCOME STABILIZATION ACT

(continued)

Mr. Speaker: And now the member for Hamilton West.

Mr. S. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Moffatt: Wow!

Mr. S. Smith: I'm not sure if that's for the hon. member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) or myself, but I'll accept it. Thank you very much.

Mr. Lewis: It is for you.

Mr. S. Smith: I am pleased we are now addressing ourselves to the substance of this bill and that we have, momentarily at least, lifted our attention from whether or not corridor conversations are to be taken one way or another. We've come down to the real matter at hand, which is Bill 96. I want you to know, Mr. Speaker, that I stand fully be-

hind what I consider to be an excellent statement of position made by the member for Huron-Middlesex, one that I was very proud of.

Mr. Angus: Have you changed your position again?

Mr. S. Smith: I want to tell you that I will not and the Liberal Party will not vote for sham legislation, and that is exactly what Bill 96 is. It only pretends to be the farm income stabilization legislation that Ontario farmers need and deserve. I think you know that I am personally very committed and our party is committed to making sure there is a reversal in the trend in this province which is irreversible, according to the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough), and that is toward greater and greater urbanization, greater and greater urban sprawl in the area around Lake Ontario, the so-called golden horseshoe, as more and more young people find it impossible to take up agriculture as a career.

Although at the moment we are well aware that there are more surplus problems than shortages, and at the moment we are well aware that there is no real difficulty with the amount of land that is left in production, we have to look to the future. We have to look to a time when food may be to this province and to this country what oil is to the OPEC nations.

Therefore we have to consider a way, and it is a tricky matter, to make agriculture today a sufficiently reasonable livelihood to keep people involved in it, to keep the newer generation involved in it, and yet at the same time not to overproduce surpluses which cannot be marketed in present world conditions. It is a very difficult matter; but for sure if we want to preserve farm land—although we have some differences with the official opposition in terms of having to freeze every single inch of farm land, we feel that is overdoing it, still we do believe we need to preserve our better farm land—it seems to me the surest way to preserve farm land is by making agriculture produce the kind of income, the kind of living that a young person would want to take it up, that a young person could take it up without the fear of the ups and downs, the vagaries of nature making his life impossible and making it difficult to raise a young family.

At the moment we have to look at the fact that it's easier to move into the city and take almost any industrial job that's available, because it does provide more security than farming. This party therefore

has been on record; my predecessor in the leadership, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), has gone up and down this province for years proposing a decent farm income stabilization or farm income insurance plan, whatever you want to call it, to make sure that the ups and downs of a farmer's livelihood could be levelled out, to make sure that farming could be a decent living for more and more young people; and that surely is what we have to aim at.

We have a vision of the province not losing its shape completely as people collapse into the city, into this urbanized area, but rather where people can be self-sufficient in their smaller communities; and most of our smaller communities depend on a viable agricultural base for a decent living.

Therefore, we wish to have real farm income stabilization and not this sham of a bill. When the largest farm organization in this province says that this bill is "of almost no potential benefit to Ontario farmers," we cannot in conscience support it.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has said, as you know Mr. Speaker, that it will only create, "more expensive, inefficient and insensitive government bureaucracy;" and calls the bill "a hollow carrot."

It is time that this government stopped making empty promises to the farm community. It's an insult to the farm community for this government to keep boasting that it is assisting farmers when it is not.

You know you would almost be tempted to pass this bill had it come in under the name of emergency help to some fruit and vegetable growers, but the pretensions of this government to bring it in under the name of farm income stabilization is so deliberately set out to mislead people that we cannot in fact vote for it. It is time, as I say, that they called their bill what it really is and not insult the farm community.

You know, in 33 years of Tory rule farmers have been through some gruelling times; and now Agriculture Canada predicts even as much as possibly a 25 per cent drop in net farm income this year across Canada, although frankly I hope that was a pessimistic estimate.

Violent jolts up and down in farm income have affected the province's sugar beet industry, its processing strawberry industry and forced farmers who desperately want to farm to leave farming in order to provide their families the income security of a 9-to-5 job.

[5:00]

We will only be able to maintain a healthy farm sector if we do provide a reasonable form of insurance. The Liberal Party would replace this pathetic legislation, that gives token handouts, with a stabilization programme that both farmers and government would pay into.

You know, the farmers are not looking for spoonfed programmes or subsidies or handouts. The farmers are not asking for the government to become bigger and bigger and basically to take over the lives of everybody in this province and somehow or other to bail them out of every difficulty. They are willing to make contributions when, due to the crop situation, there is some prosperity in the farm. They are willing to invest some of that so that when times are bad they have some support.

The farmers are a very independent group in this province. They are not out to have government take care of them but they are at the moment probably the only group nakedly facing the private enterprise system without some form of protection, without at least the opportunity to insure themselves against, as I say, the vagaries of that system and of nature.

The farmers want to take an active part in developing and carrying out programmes that affect the farm community. We in the Legislature should be grateful for that. We shouldn't trample on them and set up bureaucracies and tell them to come and plead with these bureaucracies for so much money. That reduces the independence. That reduces the dignity of people. They want their own organization to stand up and make their case clearly. And they deserve to have that. It's the minimum they deserve and we can't vote for less.

There are several flaws in Bill 96 which have been listed very well by my colleague from Huron-Middlesex. The bill does cover a small percentage of the dollar value of Ontario's farm products. It excludes all commodities covered by federal stabilization legislation, marketing boards, set quotas and farm gate prices. I think you have already heard the example of broiler chickens, which is proof that merely being under a marketing board does not provide sufficient protection for the farmers.

Hon. W. Newman: Why don't you make the adjustments?

Mr. S. Smith: This bill also excludes any product brought under the federal Agricultural Stabilization Act and therefore it will

mean even less to fewer farmers in the future than it does now. The support level in this bill will be set at the average market price for the previous five years. If farmers get less than that in the market place, then the government will make up the difference, as some adjustments permit it.

This is identical really to what the Minister of Agriculture and Food has already publicly labelled as inadequate, and we agreed with him when he did that. How can he with any feeling or concern bring in the identical inadequate programme? He contradicted his own promises on Nov. 25, 1975. Anybody can see that who reads that speech to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture in November, 1975. He said: "Our proposal envisages a minimum 90 per cent guarantee to all producers."

Where is the flip-flop? We know where it is. It is in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The bill makes farmer involvement a farce.

Hon. W. Newman: Read the whole speech.

Mr. S. Smith: "The commission of not fewer than five members will be appointed by and paid by the government."

Mr. Roy: I'd fire that speech writer.

Mr. S. Smith: The government will also dictate who is chairman and who is vice-chairman.

Mr. Hodgson: They change every day.

Hon. W. Newman: Does it ever.

Mr. S. Smith: On top of this, as you know, since three would form a quorum, there would be government officials with farmers who have no guarantee that they will have a meaningful input into this commission.

Let me say something about the matter of minority government. It's a very, very difficult thing that none of us, I suppose, is used to since there haven't been very many minority governments in the Province of Ontario, but in order to work in the public interest, it requires a degree of co-operation. It requires a degree of working together.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. S. Smith: The government has the responsibility to govern, and we recognize that.

Mr. Hodgson: Which hat have you got on today?

Mr. S. Smith: But they are only 51 members. They are no more than that. There are 74 of us here in the two opposition parties and we deserve to be consulted. We deserve to have a say. The government knows we can't accept a bill like this. Why do they persist in pushing it forward in this form? Why could they not arrange to have proper consultation with the farmers' representatives, the various organizations?

Hon. W. Newman: Because you stopped it yourself personally.

Mr. Nixon: What good is consultation after the fact?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. S. Smith: What is the point of bringing forward a bill of this kind without giving people a chance to have their input before the bill is drafted, before the bill is put on the order paper? Why should the onus fall totally upon the Liberal Party to make minority government work? Why should it be simply we that have to make minority government work?

Hon. W. Newman: You have to be kidding.

Mr. S. Smith: The government acts as though it still has a majority the way it used to. The official opposition is prepared to put this province through an election at any time of year over any issue at all. Why is it that only one party in this Legislature is attempting to make minority government work?

Let me say a few words about the reasoned amendment; presented by the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald), was it not? Yes.

There is much merit in that reasoned amendment. I think that reasoned amendment—the official opposition back-benchers seem so shocked to hear that something they presented has merit but don't be too surprised; from time to time that happens. It may be accidental but it happens.

Mr. Bain: We didn't think that you would admit the reasoned amendment was good. We didn't know you were so impressed.

Mr. S. Smith: The reasoned amendment has certain merit, but as the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) pointed out, there are some serious deficiencies in it as well. Clearly it is an improvement over the bill itself. The logical thing for the government to do is withdraw the bill and have proper hearings. We all know that, everyone

knows that; but in fact they wish to push ahead with it.

If that's the case, the reasoned amendment makes a lot of sense. The problem is that it still does not point out that it should be contributory; although I take it it was the intention of the member to point that out and I'll accept that was his intention.

Mr. Bounsall: That's what an insurance plan is.

Mr. S. Smith: No; with respect Mr. Speaker, we have experts in the insurance industry here, it is not; but I accept that he intended it to be.

The fact, furthermore, is that in addition to being contributory there should be a time limit to make sure that they don't go on forever with these hearings and bring in a bill before the session gets on too much further. I think it's also important that the farmers have representation and be assured that any board will be a board that represents the farmers' interests; in fact it's particularly important that this happen.

We met with a group of farmers today who represented the fruit and vegetable growers association, and they hadn't read the bill or had any real notion of what was in it. It was really embarrassing to even be a member of this Legislature when the government carries on in that way.

May I just say for a moment, Mr. Speaker, that many people who come to petition this Legislature believe that because the opposition parties are a majority we can somehow order the business of the House and bring in our own bills and so on. It's not commonly understood by the citizens that we're still pretty well dependent on what the government brings forward. It is disgraceful that they would not act in a way that would involve consultation with the very people who are the most involved in this.

Interjections.

Mr. Breithaupt: We'll give the minister their names.

Mr. S. Smith: We'll give him the list.

Hon. W. Newman: The secretary-manager is sitting in the gallery. I talked to him this morning, so don't stand up there without making sure what you are talking about.

Mr. S. Smith: Let me say furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the rules of the House, as you well know, insist that at some point we will ask shall this bill be read a second time. After

that is disposed of, at that point, there will come the reasoned amendment.

At that point it will be appropriate for us to make whatever improvements we think could be made, so that together we can bring to the farming community of this province something of which we can be proud, which is much more reasonable than the situation that's being foisted upon them, or an attempt is being made to foist it upon them by the present government. I look forward to that part of the debate this evening, when we can in fact participate in attempting to improve the amendment, which in itself attempts to improve the bill which was presented.

Now I would just like to say, basically, in closing Mr. Speaker, that it is not easy to oppose bad legislation and yet not force the province into a summer election. It's a difficult thing. Of course it's a matter of judgement as to whether each particular bill is of sufficient moment, and sufficient weight and circumstance that it would be worthwhile provoking a summer election. This is the kind of judgement you must make.

I make no apology for the fact that our party has to make some unusual adjustments which are perhaps even considered humorous by some, but the fact is we are trying to make this government work. We are opposing bad legislation without bringing the whole House down around everybody for a summer election. That's all we're doing, that's the only thing we're doing; and I hope it will be understood by the citizens of Ontario, and particularly by the farming community, that we are making it impossible for the government to force through a piece of sham legislation.

Mr. Eaton: Mr. Speaker, I guess it should be a privilege to follow the urban Eugene Whelan in speaking.

Mr. Nixon: They are both good speakers.

Mr. Eaton: But I just have to give warning to him that he better be careful of the members of his own caucus. Just a minute ago those people who take credit for, and rode on the cot-tails of the things that Eugene Whelan has done for the farmers—and I give him full credit for it—those people in his own provincial party over there turn around—

Mr. Roy: You just wish you had a Minister of Agriculture like Eugene Whelan.

Mr. Eaton: —and disown him or discredit him for the farm stabilization programme that he has introduced at the national level.

I say they are pretty quick to take advantage of Eugene and the credit that Eugene gets for his work, and then turn around and go back the other way when they think it is politically advantageous.

Mr. Kerrio: Say something about the bill!

An hon. member: Sitting on the fence.

Mr. Eaton: Mr. Speaker, in talking to the amendment that has been put forth, first of all I would like to say that we cannot support it.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: The minister's going to vote for it.

Mr. Eaton: This amendment would delay the action of bringing this legislation forth. It would deny those producers who will—

Mr. Haggerty: You promised it two years ago.

Mr. Eaton: —be protected by the legislation the right to have that protection now. In opposing this bill, both groups in the opposition are denying those producers in this province, who are not now covered by federal legislation, that protection.

Mr. Wildman: Talk about Stoney Creek.

Mr. Eaton: I think that each and every one of those members should think about that before they vote against the bill.

Mr. Roy: Our critics here know more about agriculture than you will ever know.

Mr. Eaton: I think that we can also say that the consultation will take place if the bill is allowed to go ahead. The minister himself has indicated that it will go to a committee of the House. Also, the inference that is made in regard to insurance certainly is inaccurate, and we cannot support that. So we will not be supporting this amendment that was put forth.

Mr. Wildman: You will regret that.

Mr. Riddell: Did you give him that authority, or is he speaking on his own?

Mr. Eaton: Once again I want to emphasize that this bill covers those commodities which are not now covered.

Interjection.

Mr. Haggerty: Yes, but the federal government is including vegetables and fruits.

Mr. Eaton: The leader of the third party indicated that our Minister of Agriculture, in his speech at the federation annual meeting, said that the products would be covered at 90 per cent. That's exactly what has happened. Those products at the federal level are covered that way, with the cost of production factor built in. That's exactly what we are doing provincially for those producers who are not now protected by that legislation.

I want to speak, too, on the remarks that were made in regard to the meeting at Stoney Creek. Reference was made that I announced at that time the plan would be coming forth and that it would have voluntary financial participation by the producers. That is certainly not the case, and I quote right from my notes at that meeting: "It will provide for participation with the federal government," which we have done. There will be "voluntary producer participation," which it provides. I said at Stoney Creek that "if a producer wants to accept the programme, if there is a payment to be made on that product, then he voluntarily has the right to take it." Individual commodities will be covered, as I mentioned at the meeting, and those commodities that will be covered are those that are now outside the federal legislation.

The support level would relate to the cost of production. That's exactly what is taking place—a guarantee of 90 per cent, plus a factor for the cost of production. All those things that were brought up at that meeting are taking place.

[5:15]

I would also point out that some of the discussion at that meeting was on the problems and potential of stabilization. We went into a number of the problems that could be seen in stabilization programmes. The member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) was very quick to avoid the discussion of the BC programme at that particular meeting.

Mr. Eakins: Because it's Ontario.

Mr. Eaton: He's quick to point to it but he doesn't cover the discussion at that meeting. I just want to go over some of the discussion that took place at that meeting. The article that came out is "The bloom is beginning to fade on BC's farm income programme." This quote is directly from a representative from BC.

There are already signs that the programme has helped to inflate land and quota prices, and the government is unearthing a welter of administrative and regulatory difficulties. [It goes on to point out many of those prob-

lems.] The BC programme has, as a result, suggested that land costs be removed from the cost production formula.

He also goes on to point out that the price of fluid milk quotas had doubled since the stabilization programme came into place, from \$35 to \$70 a pound. There are reports of prices even as high as \$85 a pound. I think that's one thing we must be concerned about, the level of value that is placed on quotas. Look at our tobacco industry at the present time. One-third of the cost of production is now the value of renting a quota for the right to produce that product.

Mr. Roy: You are doing a bad job of defending the bill.

Mr. Eaton: I want to refer from that stabilization programme to comments by the Federation of Agriculture by their president, Mr. Hill.

Mr. Haggerty: He is on your side.

Mr. Eaton: He points out that if we have incentive prices, which the programme we've been talking about will be, then we have to have controls to go with it. We have to have production controls. I'll tell you I'm not against production controls, providing they're implemented by the producers themselves, by producer marketing boards, by those producers who want them. To come out with a programme that sets such high values and high standards as far as the return is concerned that it becomes an incentive programme, and then if because of those incentives we get overproduction and have to turn around and put quotas—

Mr. S. Smith: That's what the minister promised in November.

Mr. Eaton: That's not what he promised. You mentioned the 90 per cent he promised.

Mr. Nixon: That's what he did with the milk business.

Mr. Eaton: To turn around and have to impose all those quotas and decide how they'll be transferred is going to be a monumental problem, and one that bears interest, in the future of agriculture. We hear a lot today about the young farmer getting started into agriculture. The federation is great to put that forth. People on the other side of the House are great in putting that forth. Where does the young farmer get started, in what products, in this province today? It is not where he has to go out and buy a huge quota at money he can't afford, but

in those products that aren't under rigid quota controls where he doesn't have to pay to get a quota to get into the business. I think that's one thing to be considered in setting up quotas on every product, because if you set incentive prices you're going to have to put those quotas on every product.

We've seen what happened just recently in the milk business. Young farmers got to thinking they were going to get quotas. They were encouraged by the milk board saying, if they produce over the next year they'll have a quota and then they found out they haven't got quotas now because we've got overproduction. That's what those incentives caused, the kind of troubles we have right now.

I have to look at a situation like that of Gordon Hill, the president of the federation, and the whole view of the executive of the federation right now. I was criticized by saying they didn't necessarily represent the views of all their members—

Mr. Lane: They don't either.

Mr. Eaton: —just as we members don't necessarily represent the views of all the people in our riding.

Mr. Peterson: You sure do.

Mr. Eaton: Even those who vote for us sometimes disagree with the policies that come forth.

Mr. Bounsall: They sure do with this one.

Mr. Eaton: I can't help but feel that I have a right to criticize somewhat the Federation of Agriculture's executive and their stand right now. I happen to be one of the first direct members of that organization. I happen to have signed the papers that made it possible for Gordon Hill to stand so that he could become president of that organization. I have a lot of respect for him and his activities on behalf of that organization.

Since he went in there, and since the federation started to rejuvenate itself, it has been doing a good job; but in the last little while I think the federation has turned from some of its objectives. One objective that I know Gordon had at that time was to try to get the money out of the marketplace for the producer through the efforts of our marketing boards, using the finest legislation anywhere in the world. I think they have changed from that objective and now are coming here and saying, "We want to get all we can out of the coffers of the province." And I am very disappointed in the leadership in our organization for that.

Mr. Riddell: He speaks very highly of you, Bob.

Mr. S. Smith: But your own minister promised this sort of legislation.

Mr. Eaton: I am talking about incentive prices—not the legislation that we have here, but what it could lead to—

Mr. Bullbrook: He is not talking about the bill; he is out of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. S. Smith: He is out of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Eaton: I think that they need to reassess their position on those things, because their president himself has said—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It might be well if the hon. member did speak to the principle of the bill.

Mr. Eaton: I am speaking to the principle of the bill, Mr. Speaker. The president himself said, "Well, we've got a minority government; we're going to get everything we can." I think that is a bad attitude that too many of the people of our province are slipping into today.

Mr. Lewis: Who said that?

Mr. Nixon: Are you quoting Gordon Hill?

Mr. S. Smith: Don't berate the farmers now. Come on.

Mr. Eaton: I'm not berating the farmers. I'm berating anyone who is taking that attitude.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is the point of order?

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has a point of order.

Mr. Nixon: I wonder if the hon. member will permit a question based on his statement—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That's not a point of order.

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, sir, I believe, he is attributing a statement, a very serious statement indeed, to a citizen of this province, and he should be able to say where the president of the federation

made that statement. I feel that's a very serious allegation.

Mr. Eaton: Certainly. He made it to me personally. If he says not, he can say so right now; he is in the gallery.

Mr. Lewis: No, he is not.

Mr. Eaton: He left. He said he was going to stay around. That's too bad.

Mr. Bounsall: He couldn't stand you.

Mr. MacDonald: You drove him out.

Mr. Lewis: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It wasn't a point of order. The hon. member for Middlesex may continue.

Mr. Lewis: Well, I will wait.

Mr. Eaton: In continuing to refer to those activities, I mentioned that situation of the young farmers not being able to get into the business because everything is under quotas. I want to refer to the meeting of the young farmers. You know, the farm organizations—

Mr. Wildman: When are you going to talk about the bill?

Mr. Eaton: I am. The farm organizations made quite a to-do about that young farmers' conference.

Mr. Deans: Where is that in the bill?

Mr. Eaton: I wonder why, because those young people were speaking out and saying some of the things that concerned them. They were saying some of the things that they, as young people, perhaps don't often get a chance to do through our organization.

Mr. MacDonald: Do you think they are muzzled there?

Mr. Eaton: I am not saying they are muzzled at all. I'm saying that they don't get that opportunity as much because they are young farmers coming into the business; they don't speak out the same, as perhaps, some others. But that opportunity was given them and I think it is something certainly to be considered.

Mr. Warner: Ah, you guys have lost control.

Mr. S. Smith: Are those your views, Bill? Are you repudiating the OFA also?

Hon. W. Newman: I beg your pardon?

Mr. Eaton: I also want to refer to the statement that was put out by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, when Mr. Hill pointed out that the only benefit would be to the members of the bureaucratic kingdom to be established under the bill. Let's just stop and think for a moment about the presentation that was given to us by the Federation of Agriculture in their proposal to set up the legislation. They were proposing that when the legislation was set up they would administer it for four per cent of the cost, the same as BC does.

Let's just look at that. Four per cent of the beef programme last year, in which we paid out \$22 million, would have been \$880,000. That at the present time is the total budget of the Federation of Agriculture. That was done internally, with the staff that we already had in the ministry, no extra staff was added for that. So I think he needs to take a second look when he says that it would have been setting up a bureaucratic kingdom, because that certainly is not the case.

I also think that we need to look at what some of the members are saying about how much the programmes should cost. Everyone is assuming that the price of the agricultural product has got to be low and we have to make a big payout to have a programme. That certainly isn't the idea of the programme. The idea of the programme is to protect producers when prices do drop. As a result, there would have only been a payout of \$7 million last year, because there were only a few commodities that needed that kind of support, most of them were receiving reasonable returns.

I also want to look at the situation brought up in regard to commodities that are outside of the programme because they are under quota controls and price-setting regulations. Reference was made by the leader of the third party to the broilers. It isn't necessary that we have a stabilization programme to protect a situation like that. We've had a promise federally that if we have supply management then we will receive protection at the borders; and this has been done with eggs. It certainly can be done with broilers in the same way. We have a supply management programme and there is no reason why the federal government cannot carry through that commitment.

With many of our products the problem isn't the price we receive at home because of our production here, it's the price we

receive because of our low tariff protection and the fact that the tariff protection that we have is antiquated as far as agriculture is concerned. Every time there is a round of negotiations we get into a situation that agricultural products are traded off as far as protection is concerned.

As far as protection of our products is concerned the levels go back to the 1930s and are completely inadequate. I could go through the whole list of them, however I won't take the time because I know there are other speakers who want to get involved.

I just want to conclude, Mr. Speaker, by saying that I think it's wrong for the members of the other parties to deny the producers in this province the same protection that is now provided under the legislation. I think it is summed up pretty well in a newspaper column I have here, written by a former colleague of Eugene Whelan who says: "I am certainly no supporter of the Conservatives;" and then he goes on to say: "But PC's policies are sensible. I find—"

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: They say so themselves.

Mr. Eaton: "I find that their policies on farm income stabilization and land-use preservation make more sense by far than those of either the Liberals or the NDP."

Interjections.

Mr. Eaton: "Mr. Newman is absolutely bang-on correct in worrying that a farm income stabilization programme that is too generous will lead this province into disaster. Our main problem remains the potential to produce crippling surpluses."

Interjections.

Mr. Eaton: "Farmers still respond to profits, and respond quickly and forcefully—"

Mr. S. Smith: Who is he quoting?

Mr. Eaton: —"and that is the way it should be."

Mr. Peterson: Who are you quoting?

Mr. S. Smith: My uncle writes good letters too.

Mr. Eaton: I'm quoting Jim Romahn.

Mr. Lewis: Who is that?

Mr. Eaton: Jim Romahn?

Hon. W. Newman: A former Liberal, believe it or not.

Mr. Eaton: Jim Romahn, who worked for Eugene Whelan.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude by saying that although some of our farm organizations do not like this legislation, there are many people within the ranks of those organizations who support the legislation.

[5:30]

Mr. Warner: Name them.

Mr. Eaton: You can go out and find them in your riding if you're in the country. You may not be but you can go out and find many of them.

Mr. Warner: You got all the farmers out of my riding.

Mr. Eaton: There are many who support the legislation. The legislation should go ahead for those producers who are not now protected by the federal legislation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Scarborough West.

Mr. Hodgson: He just sells houses for big money.

Mr. MacDonald: That's cheap.

Mr. Lewis: I want to intervene in this debate, much, I think, in the spirit which both opposition parties have shown, which is to deal with this debate in a way which doesn't reflect the irreconcilable adversary and often in a not very friendly tone, but deals with the debate and this subject matter on its merits and exclusively on its merits.

I want to put aside, if I can, for the moment, all of the swirl of commentary about confidence and no-confidence, about corridor discussions and their various interpretations and take a look, in concert with my colleagues in the New Democratic Party, at the substance of the bill and what is really at issue before us.

If I may say to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, there are two enormous problems in the bill, and I think he understands that. One is the simple compelling reality that it does not meet the need to which it is addressed. The second is the equally compelling reality that it defaults on commitments which were made and therefore stands as a repudiation of all that was promised and all that the farm community legitimately expected. In that context, it's absurd to ask us to support a bill which is faulty in its principle and dishonourable in its introduction.

I want the Minister of Agriculture and Food to think back to the whole range of experiences which all of us have had in dealing with the whole farm income stabilization area. When William Stewart was Minister of Agriculture and Food and put a dollar figure to the cost of a farm income protection plan—he called it stabilization—he did so because it was part of a gradually evolving reality for the government. He was responding to what was happening in British Columbia. He was responding to the pressures in Ontario and he was showing how much it would cost, not to demean it or depreciate it or dismiss it, but simply to demonstrate its importance and its costs.

Subsequent to that, there have been two separate commitments in Throne Speeches from this government about a farm income protection plan. The Minister of Agriculture and Food has moved throughout the Province of Ontario speaking often and frequently of a farm income stabilization insurance protection plan. I was at the meeting of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, which I think was the first occasion on which the new Minister of Agriculture and Food spoke to the Ontario federation. I think the former Leader of the Opposition was there as well. My colleague, the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald), was there. Many members of the Legislature were there.

We all heard the Minister of Agriculture and Food make a public commitment which indicated all major commodities and a contributory plan. We were all there and we all heard it. We all know that the evolution of this discussion has resulted in many instances from the Minister of Agriculture and Food criticizing the federal plan defiantly and beligerently as inadequate and then, as a kind of finale, tabling a document in March, 1976, which said: "There will be a provincial commodity income stabilization programme providing farmers with a contributory income covering major commodities."

How is it possible to reconcile the entire pattern of the last two years with the emasculated and vacuous piece of legislation which we have before us? And that's why we can't support it. It's simply why we can't support it.

I want to say to the Minister of Agriculture with respect, Mr. Speaker, that he should feel a certain shame, a certain embarrassment. As a matter of fact, the whole government should feel shame in introducing this kind of legislation.

It has nothing to do with denying the farmers a legitimate plan. The government is

not denying the farmers a legitimate plan. It is denying the farmers what it promised them for two years, and has now repudiated in a public forum. That's why the farmers are angry with this government and that's why the opposition parties are not prepared to support this kind of legislation under any circumstances.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food said in his opening statement in introducing the bill on second reading: "I have talked to the farmers of Ontario. I have met with them all over the province and I know what they want." Fair game; fair game.

Hon. W. Newman: I didn't say that.

Mr. Lewis: I am sure he has talked to many farm groups. I have talked to a great many farm groups as well over the past several months. I don't pretend it comes with the expertise or the knowledge of the Minister of Agriculture, but I too have perception. I listen to what they say, and two things have impressed me enormously.

First, the farm groups with whom I have met—and they have been many—are tremendously concerned about the gradual and irresistible disappearance of crop land. They understand what's happening in Ontario and they therefore support the feds and the farm union and the agrologists and the small rural municipalities and everybody else who have asked for a piece of legislation to designate the protection of agricultural land.

But more than that, Mr. Speaker, the farmers of Ontario are saying, I think, that they want to be assured an adequate return on investment and that there's something politically and morally wrong with a society which says to the farm community on whom we all depend, "You can blessed well go down the drain. We will intervene on everyone else's behalf but we won't intervene on your behalf."

There have been some pretty vivid moments which stick in my mind about that. I was in Dresden, Ont., just a few months ago to meet with a number of farmers from Lambton and Kent counties about the laying of natural gas lines and what it was doing to the fields. It was a perfectly interesting and useful meeting, and I learned a great deal I didn't know.

When the meeting ended, several of the farmers approached me and said: "Whatever you can do about the natural gas line, could you please help persuade the government to give us some kind of income assurance, or we can't stay on the farm?"

I remember being out in Sharbot Lake in Frontenac township not many months ago,

meeting in that marvellous little multi-service community centre which deals with a largely rural community, and sitting late one night with a number of farmers who had come from Frontenac and Lanark counties. And the thing they put to me most strongly was that beyond the cow-calf stabilization plan, there also had to be a farm income protection plan.

I can remember not so long ago, Mr. Speaker, going up to Manitoulin Island to deal on a number of matters. And the minister will know that in the Manitoulin area that not only is cow-calf stabilization a centrepiece of farm anxiety, but there is the whole business of expanding it into a farm income protection plan which will work.

Just a few weeks ago I was up in Durham in the riding of my friend from Grey at a public meeting which essentially involved the Hydro transmission corridor from Bradley to Georgetown and the public opposition that was being voiced to that corridor. When the meeting was over, and there were several hundred people present, I was approached by a number of farmers in Grey and in Bruce who put to me the proposition that whatever happened on the farm corridors, something had to happen on farm income insurance.

Wherever I have gone as a politician and a leader in the Province of Ontario, the farmers have talked to me about farm income insurance. They think this kind of a plan which you have introduced is, in fact, a betrayal of everything they wanted and everything they have been promised. What the leader of the Liberal Party said is entirely valid. The farmers are obviously an intensely proud and entrepreneurial group and they're not begging for anything.

Mr. Lane: We agree.

Mr. Lewis: They are asking for decent civilized support. They are saying: "Why must we, practically as the only sector of society, be left utterly defenceless in the face of the pressures of this economy?"

Mr. Lane: No they're not.

Mr. Lewis: They are putting to the government, therefore, that there must be a farm income insurance plan which gives them some kind of real support and real stabilization.

Now certainly the government comes at it rather differently than the opposition party, and I was astounded by the comments of the member of—*is it Huron-Middlesex?*

Mr. Breithaupt: Middlesex.

Mr. S. Smith: Good God, no.

Mr. Lewis: Sorry. Middlesex. Just Middlesex. My apologies to Mr. Riddell.

Mr. Breithaupt: Thank you, thank you.

Mr. Lewis: That is defamation of character. The member, purely and solely, for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton).

A government which has had its roots with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, a government which has had its roots in the rural community, should surely be more sensitive to what the Federation of Agriculture is saying to the government. I think the hon. member's gratuitous attack on Gordon Hill and the executive of the federation, and his unwarranted criticisms of that executive and that federation today, were profoundly misplaced and he will regret every word he uttered.

Mr. Eaton: Not a member of that organization criticized—

Mr. Lewis: Really, I am extremely surprised at what is happening here, because what the Tory party is beginning to do, and I am startled by it, is to turn its guns on the federation and its executive as a scapegoat and a whipping post for farm policies which are frankly insubstantial and inconsequential. The government is attempting to set up a straw man, which it is not going to succeed in doing, because with the farm community, irony of ironies, the Federation of Agriculture and the Farm Union together are stronger than the Tories are as a government party. That's right; they speak to the farmers.

When we watched the events of the last week or so unfold, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Roy: You should apologize.

Mr. Peterson: You are going to lose, Bob.

Mr. Lewis: When we watched the events of the last week or so unfold, Mr. Speaker, and we tried to consider what was happening, we decided—chatted first about it at our provincial convention over the weekend and then drafted it yesterday—to submit a reasoned amendment, for what we hoped would be the best possible uses. In that context this is what minority government is all about.

We didn't simply want to repudiate the government position, which obviously the opposition in concert wishes to do. We

wanted to provide direction to government, with an alternative position; and a reasoned amendment which would contain not only all of the principles which the farm groups and associated groups would wish to have it contain, but also what the government originally promised. When government members vote against our reasoned amendment, they are voting against themselves. It's as simple as that; because that's what they promised, that's exactly what they promised.

Hon. W. Newman: It is quite obvious you don't understand—

Mr. Lewis: Now that seems to me to be getting the best, if I can put it that way, of minority government. You reject what a government has put in and provide the kind of constructive alternative which will bring to policy a focus and a substance it hasn't otherwise had.

The Liberal Party has taken issue with some of the matters within the reasoned amendment. Can I say, in the spirit in which I put it, that none of us in the New Democratic Party feel dogmatic about these things. If there is a time limit to be inserted by a subamendment and if it's fairly soon, which was our intention, I don't see any difficulty in New Democrats accommodating that.

[5:45]

For us the word contributory was inherent in a farm income insurance plan, therefore clearly that is a matter that can be sorted out. When we said quite specifically it must go to the farm community for open, public hearings before it was reintroduced, we hoped that would be the vehicle, appropriate I think, for the groups with which negotiations would take place after the commodities were designated, that that would be the way you would work out those kinds of details.

Within those principles, within the reasoned amendment, we are more than happy to accommodate things that coincide and, therefore, presumably to pass a reasoned amendment in this Legislature and on this bill. I must say it would be an unprecedented moment but it would be a moment which I personally cherish.

I want to say to the minister he can't denigrate the process that is happening here this afternoon by simply throwing across the floor the facile and fashionable political slurs. They just don't work. "Political football," "political expediency," "socialized agriculture," etc., all of that is so much nonsense

in the context of altering the principles of a bill to meet the needs of this society. Can I say to the Minister of Agriculture and Food does he recall his peroration, does he recall how he wound up? He said the line between right and wrong is clear. Let me tell him the line runs down the centre of this Legislature and he is on the wrong side of it.

I would therefore be pleased if the government is defeated on the second reading of this bill, when the Speaker puts the proposition that the bill now be read a second time. I would be equally pleased if the government were effectively defeated again by having the opposition combine to place a reasoned amendment which ensures for the people and the farmers of Ontario a farm income protection plan which will give the farmers a guaranteed return on investment, make farming a viable pursuit, and give strength and resilience to the agricultural community which we have been promising for years and has eluded them for years.

The government, twice defeated effectively, will then presumably introduce its confidence motion and that will be another matter. But I want to tell the minister, as my final thought, the whole process of confidence and no confidence is set aside, that comes, and I am not terribly concerned in the avenue or the route by which it comes. But I do want to say to the minister that the reason we have wanted to introduce no confidence for some months now, the reason, I agree with the leader of the Liberal Party, that we have often called for no confidence in the government, even anticipating that an election might follow, is precisely because of the kind of thing that this bill represents this afternoon.

This is a government which doesn't stick to its public commitments; it is a government which brings in legislation which is often destructive of the ends it presumes to meet; it is a government which does not handle things competently; it is a government which is systematically alienating whole groups and whole communities in Ontario; it is a government that is not fit to govern; and that is why we will vote against it on confidence as well as tonight.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I suppose I have more reason to be offended by the change in the stance and policy of the government than anyone here in this chamber. As Leader of the Opposition formerly and leader of my party during the last two election campaigns, I have had to contend with the positions put forward by the former Minister of Agriculture and Food and the former spokesman for the

Conservative Party in matters agricultural, in which it was put forward without equivocation that the government stood in favour of a farm income protection plan. As a matter of fact, the term "stabilization" is relatively new and one that is used, I presume, to justify the government's present bill, which the minister claims is simply an extension of federal legislation.

I recall on many occasions having to face—with pleasure, actually—farm audiences and the question was put forward, "How does your position differ from the Conservatives as far as income maintenance is concerned?" As we understood it then, our positions were very close indeed, because there had been a commitment made in the Throne Speech before the election. While we criticized it during the debates at that time for being somewhat imprecise, the talisman phrases, such as "farm income protection" were there, and certainly the stature of the then Minister of Agriculture and Food was such that many thoughtful farmers were prepared to say that if Bill Stewart said they were going to do it, then of course, they would do it.

Bill Stewart is not presently here to answer that sort of a charge, but I do not believe that the commitment of the Conservative Party has been discharged simply because we have a new minister.

I am not critical of the minister personally; he has to put up with all sorts of pressures. Someone, in an interjection, probably put a bit facetiously, blamed the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) for the change in the attitude of the government; that sort of rings clear to me, because the government has opted for the position taken by large number of farmers, which is that they don't want any kind of an effective system of this type at all.

The minister knows very well that the Christian Farmers Federation has been extremely critical, not only of opposition parties but of the government's commitment for a farm income stabilization programme. It is interesting that they are now strongly in support of the government position while they are vituperatively critical of the position taken by my leader and my colleagues in the Liberal Party who are opposing the government position.

We don't want to impute motives—as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, we cannot do that here, and you would call me to order if I did so—but I would say, from my understanding of the position of the Christian Farmers Federation, that their position has not changed; the fact that they do support the new position of the Conservatives means

that in fact we do not have, in this bill before us, a farm income maintenance programme that is worthy of that name.

My leader made an excellent point when he said that if this bill had been introduced as some sort of stop-gap, short-term assistance for a very small group of farmers, then probably it could have been supported. But if this is to be put forward as the government's answer to their serious commitment made to the electorate before the election last year, then surely it is completely insupportable and I would say to you, Mr. Speaker, it is seriously misleading.

I say again that I, more than anyone else, have reason to be offended by this far-reaching change in the government policy, and I regret that the minister was not strong enough to oppose the pressures that have come to him from the more reactionary members of his caucus and his party. I would say to you, Mr. Speaker, that it's a serious mistake indeed; certainly the farmers will suffer and there is no doubt that the Conservative Party will suffer in the farm community as well.

I personally believe that the farmers are very much aware of what the government is attempting to do. The nice political balance that has been referred to by the member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton) and probably by the member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson) that this is what the farmers want, certainly reflects the view that some farmers put forward, that they do not want the government involved in a programme that they might construe as some sort of a handout or artificial assistance.

I believe that the farmers who feel that way misconstrue the attitudes that were formerly expressed by the Conservatives and have been strongly expressed by my leader and my caucus colleagues as well as the NDP. It's very easily misrepresented. I would hope, as the debate proceeds, that we are able to enunciate our separate and clear positions in as effective a way as possible, because I believe this bill is one of the more important ones that have come before us.

There is another matter that gives me a great deal of concern. The member for Middlesex says, "Oh, you're turning against your friend Gene Whelan when political expediency calls for it." I believe there is a serious misunderstanding of the circumstances here. Let me begin by reiterating an interjection from one of my colleagues, that we do deal with provincial matters. But let us look at the other side of the coin. Gene Whelan and the government of Canada deal with all of Canada, and the stabilization programme,

whether you call it inadequate or not, is designed to deal with the needs of the farmers right across this nation. But under the British North America Act, we have legally constituted a Ministry of Agriculture and Food to deal with the needs of this province, just as they have in Quebec and BC and the other provinces.

We are a banner province when it comes to agriculture, and for this government to say, and by their actions support, the concept that we only come up to the minimum standards established by the government of Canada across this nation, is completely insupportable and unacceptable. The only reason we have a Ministry of Agriculture and Food here is to deal with the needs of our farmers, just as the governments in BC and Quebec, and to some extent the government of Nova Scotia—and probably there are others that should be thrown into this list—have done so frequently in the past.

I have been critical of the minister's predecessor for being so unwilling to provide the initiatives which our farmers need. I might as well be frank, Mr. Speaker, now that I am trying to educate three kids in university and keep a home going on the indemnity paid to a private member, I realize just how difficult it is as far as farm income is concerned to maintain the responsibilities that go with the kind of investment and labour that are committed in that respect.

Perhaps by saying so I am revealing what is an obvious conflict of interest; but surely there is no reason why farmers, including the Minister of Agriculture and Food, can not express a personal view in that regard.

I believe very strongly, Mr. Speaker, that the government has completely negated its commitment to the Legislature and to the people of this province, made on two separate occasions in the Speech from the Throne and reiterated even by this minister. His clarion call, in the introduction to second reading, that what the opponents to the present bill were calling for was some sort of mad socialism in the agricultural field, of course, is not even justified when it is directed against the socialist party. Even they feel that the programme should be voluntary, and although the word does not occur in their reasoned amendment they put forward very strongly their protest that the reference to premium paying is implicit in the word insurance. Whether we argue that or not, an amend-

ment could very well set that straight and it would be our intention, if we bring in an amendment at the appropriate time, sir, to see that that would be so.

For the minister to set up some kind of bogymen of a socialist intrusion into the farming industry is unworthy of him, surely. We are talking about a voluntary programme and that word has always been used in the description of a Liberal programme designed to meet these needs. We have talked, without fail, of the need for premiums to be paid.

Mr. Eaton: The controls have to go with it.

Mr. Nixon: There would be a nice distribution of costs, if, in fact, the government of Canada would see fit to recognize this sort of a programme, and the one in BC, and pay a third of the premium cost. I am not so pessimistic as to think that sometime in the future such a payment might not be possible. I would hope that the bill, when it is brought back into the Legislature sometime in the fall, or whenever the reasoned amendment as amended would instruct the government so to proceed, that there would be definitely room for this government to negotiate with the government of Canada in order to have their full participation in that regard.

There is a matter that I want to reiterate; and that is, it is not acceptable in this House, and surely not acceptable to the farmers of Ontario, that we direct our attention only to coming up to some federal level of stabilization and support. Certainly we believe there has to be co-operation between the two levels of government, but for the minister to lose sight of the mandate he must have, that is to serve the farm industry here and the individual farmers, is really reprehensible.

Why does he think we have a Ministry of Agriculture and Food here? Surely he can see advantages to the agricultural community in other provinces. It is not advantage by way of a handout, or it is not the kind of advantage which will dislocate interprovincial trade. These are the things that can be co-ordinated federally. The fact that Quebec and BC have taken these steps forward, surely is all the more reason we, Mr. Speaker, we in this province should stop dragging our heels and moving along so reluctantly as we have in the past, and move into the forefront of a programme that is going to be meaning-

ful and effective for working farmers of this province.

Mr. Speaker, I see it is now 6 o'clock; I have a few more comments to make, sir, and would leave the debate in your hands.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being 6 p.m. I do now leave the chair. We will resume at 8 p.m.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX

(See page 3315.)

The following was tabled as a correction to the answer to a question tabled initially on May 18, 1976. [Hansard No. 60, page 2412]:

29. Mr. Angus—Inquiry of the ministry:

1. What is the number of persons employed in the Thunder Bay area by each ministry?
2. What is their job classification? 3. What is the original home town of each person employed?

Answer by the Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet:

1. Ministry	No. of Persons Employed in Thunder Bay
Agriculture and Food	9
Attorney General	61
Community and Social Services	147
Consumer and Commercial Relations	14
Colleges and Universities	11
Correctional Services	127
Culture and Recreation	59
Education	55
Energy	—
Environment	55
Government Services	51
Health	572
Housing	12
Industry and Tourism	6
Labour	18
Natural Resources	170
Revenue	111
Solicitor General	65
TEIA	7
Office of the Premier	—
Transportation and Communications	521
Management Board/Civil Service Commission	—
Cabinet office, including secretariats	—
	<u>2071</u>

2. The classifications of the individuals employed in the Thunder Bay area cover the full range of classifications in the Ontario public service. As an example, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications employs engineers, file clerks, draftsmen and driver-examiners among their total of 572. Further, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food employs agricultural representatives, agricultural specialists, home economists and stenographers among their total of nine.

3. Section 4 of the Ontario Human Rights Code lays down that no person shall not be employed on the basis of a number of things including place of origin. Because of this, we do not specifically retain information with respect to any public servant's original home town and, as a matter of fact, have recently initiated amendments to our employment application in order to remove that particular section from the application.

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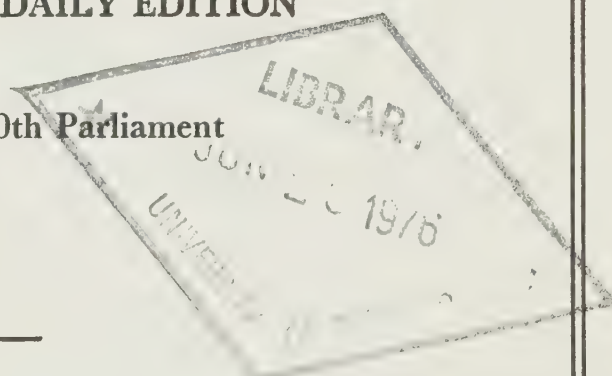
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Legislature of Ontario Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT — DAILY EDITION

Third Session of the 30th Parliament



Tuesday, June 15, 1976

Evening Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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A list of the speakers taking part in the debates in this issue of Hansard appears, in alphabetical order, at the back of this issue.

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1976

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for second reading of Bill 96, An Act respecting Farm Income Stabilization.

FARM INCOME STABILIZATION ACT (concluded)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When we adjourned at 6 o'clock the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk had the floor.

Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to have an opportunity to continue my comments on second reading of the farm income stabilization bill, as the government calls the legislation which is before us now.

Actually, in winding up my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I simply want to reiterate two of the things I've already said and mention one important new aspect, at least from my point of view. It is the contention of the Liberal Party that the government has essentially reversed its position—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If I may interrupt the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk; would those responsible for those lights turn them off, since there are no cameras. Sorry, you may continue.

Mr. Nixon: I don't know whether that is a reflection on the importance of this speech or not, Mr. Speaker. However, I do want to say to you, sir, that it is our contention that the government has essentially reversed what I considered to be a commitment made at the last election and made in the last two Throne Speeches.

We, as Liberals, believe in a voluntary plan. We believe the plan must be contributory. I have already indicated that it is my hope that the government of Canada will contribute their share to a premium of financing such a plan when it is brought back into the Legislature, probably in legislation presented to us this fall.

I also wanted to say that for the government to feel we must only continue the

federal farm stabilization programme, simply means we in this province are not accepting the responsibility that is ours under the British North America Act to deal with the needs of the farmers in this province—just as other provinces have seen fit so to do.

The point I have not mentioned before is that I believe the bill is extremely weak in its design to have some procedure whereby the government can negotiate with the farmers themselves.

The commission or the board so constituted has been criticized by previous speakers. While there is a great deal of concern about the constitution of that board, the omission from the bill that I believe is crucial is a section that would constitute a legal entity that can bargain on behalf of the farmers.

I know that will not be an easy thing to do; but on the other hand it is by no means impossible. Harking back a few years to Bill Stewart's incumbency, I recall the bill was brought before us to establish a general farm organization. It was supported, as I recall, on both sides but the farmers themselves were not able to reach a conclusion in that regard. So we do not have a single farm organization but at least two and certain other ancillary organizations that speak for segments of the farm community. I believe to be acceptable a bill must constitute a legal panel that is appropriately established to negotiate with the government on the basis of what costs are and what the support level should be on a year-to-year basis. This has been done in other jurisdictions. A procedure similar to that is used in the United Kingdom where they have not found the procedure has in any way removed the basic freedom of action in the agricultural community.

We have put ourselves diametrically opposed to the government's new position in this regard. I had hoped since all three parties had supported the concept at the time of the last election campaign we could move forward in concert to the kind of programme which would be in the best interests of the agricultural community and the farmers as individuals. Instead of that, the minister in his introductory remarks said: "All they want is a bit of help."

I consider that a patronizing approach to the responsibility that we in this Legislature must have. The farmers want more than that and they are properly demanding more than that. They want a coherent programme of income protection of the type that has been generally recognized by the Federation of Agriculture and put forward by them in their activities across this province.

It is with reluctance that I would say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the government has gone back on its commitment to the agricultural community and it has certainly left us in this party with no alternative but to oppose this bill in principle and to move forward hoping that we are going to have better legislation in the interests of the farmers before this year is out.

Mr. Wiseman: I am pleased to speak on this bill and to say that I am in favour of Bill 96. I believe in starting out I should say that the majority of the farmers, when they get a chance to study this bill, will support it as well.

Mr. Roy: Are you suggesting they don't understand it?

Mr. Wiseman: But right here I would just like to say that I spoke to many of the farmers already in my riding and I think a good percentage of them, when they get a chance to understand it, will support it as well.

Mr. Roy: That's patronizing. You say they don't understand it.

Mr. Wiseman: This programme, as the previous speakers have said, guarantees 90 per cent over the last five-year average for any of their commodities. My concern was that it took in some costs for labour and some of the other costs, and I understand that it does.

An hon. member: That's 90 per cent of what?

Mr. Eaton: Why don't you read it? You will find out.

Mr. Wiseman: We heard this afternoon from many of the hon. members, and I listened quite carefully, that this bill wasn't rich enough. I would say in talking to a lot of the farmers, and I think I have an ear and I listen to them, they don't want a Cadillac programme.

Mr. S. Smith: This is a kiddy car.

Mr. Wiseman: They want something that we can afford and something that won't be an incentive to get people with a little bit of money to invest in the farm area to get into the programme. We have seen this happen in milk and other areas. Where the price got up to a certain level, then we saw other people get in. This is what we are faced with right now.

I think also that the farmer wants some protection to know that if he or she enters into the agricultural field, in whichever commodity he or she wants to, he or she won't lose his or her shirt. I think this bill does that.

Any of us who sat in the House a year ago knows that many of the same comments that were made about this bill this afternoon were made about the cow-calf bill. I would say many of the farmers in eastern Ontario whom I have spoken to were quite happy with that bill, even though a lot of the members opposite voiced their opinion a year ago that it wasn't rich enough. Many of the people in their ridings felt that it was. In my riding in particular, 90 per cent of the cow-calf people entered into that programme and already this year there are people who didn't enter into it who are coming around and asking, "When are the forms coming out so that we can get into it this year?"

Mr. Nixon: You can make those same annual payments before the next election.

Mr. Wiseman: Some of the members used the example of British Columbia and their programme; I happened to be out there within the last couple of months, talking to many of my fellow Charolais breeders as well as other farmers. Just last week I spoke to a man who had farmed out there all his life who was visiting this area. I asked him about the programme, and he said he was afraid, as others were, that the programme was too rich and that it was an incentive for people to get into it. He also felt the government were going to be faced with some large expenditures that they might find difficult to raise, and that they were going to have to put on more rigid controls if they kept on the route they were following.

The Federation of Agriculture has said, as my friend from Middlesex said this afternoon, that they'd like to be the chief bargaining agent, as they are in British Columbia. During the last election, one or two of the hon. members of the NDP were in my riding when the chap came down from

British Columbia and spoke on their programme.

Mr. Renwick: Dave Stupich?

Mr. Wiseman: Yes. He mentioned that in order to get into the programme out there, you had to belong to the Federation of Agriculture; but, in checking it over, it is easier to have one group like that look after it out there because, as I understand it, they have only a handful of farmer unions in pockets throughout the province. Here in Ontario, as most of us who are in farming know, we have three farm groups that are quite large, the Federation of Agriculture being the largest. I feel that when you're a taxpayer in this province, you shouldn't have to belong to any one of those organizations to get into a government-run programme; you should be able to get into that programme without having to join one of the particular groups first. I wouldn't want to see this in the same form in Ontario.

Mr. Renwick: I think we have a little bit of trouble with the Liberal sub-amendment on that.

Mr. Wiseman: I could go on much longer, but I'd be going over a lot of the comments that were made earlier this afternoon by my colleagues, and perhaps by some members on the other side. I will just close by saying that I support Bill 96; I think the farmers of Ontario, when they get a chance to study it, will support it as well. I think it will be a programme as well accepted as our cow-calf programme is with our cow-calf people.

Mr. Bounsall: Mr. Speaker, I cannot support this totally inadequate Conservative bill dealing with farm income stabilization. It's pathetically inadequate to meet the needs of the farmers of Ontario or to ensure a continuation of food lands in Ontario and, consequently, food supply at reasonable prices to the consumers of Ontario.

The good people of my riding of Windsor-Sandwich are greatly interested in the present and future supply of food and the price of food, particularly as it will affect not only themselves but their children and their children's children. They are concerned first and foremost that farm land should remain in production and understand fully that for farmers to remain in production and on the farm, their incomes must be protected and they must receive an adequate return on their investment.

[This government bill covers only a few commodities—and covers those inadequately; the 90 per cent over five years—and is opposed as worse than useless, and not worth the paper on which it is written, by the major farm representatives in this province.]

[8:15]

By opposing this bill, we are not proposing to leave the farmers without a plan. Our reasoned amendment, as introduced by the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald), would refer the bill back to the government for introduction in the future, with changes that would make the bill adequate to the needs of our society—changes wherein it would become a farm income insurance plan, contributed to by the farmers in Ontario; a participation which they desire. It would be voluntary for all those farmers and cover all farm products.

We would anticipate the period of time for consultation as provided in our amendment would be reasonably short, that is we could see this bill in its changed form, if our reasoned amendment passes, returning to this House in the late fall, or early winter at the latest, with retroactivity embodied therein.

This we feel is the sane, responsible, rational approach, helpful to both the farmers in Ontario in the immediate future and certainly over the long term to the consumers. We cannot, therefore, in principle, support this government bill when such logical, rational alternatives exist to this very pressing problem.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, in debating this bill briefly, I have always felt that farming needed some form of security. It is interesting when you plant a crop of soya beans, tomatoes or whatever the case might be, and at the time you are putting them in, or maybe at the time you have just finished harvesting your crop, you may have received so much per bushel; but when you plant a new crop you're never sure what you are going to get.

After all, many of our commodities are based pretty well on world markets. Since Canada has been known as a trading nation throughout the past 100 years, we seem to have to compete a great deal with other world countries. Really, the price of soya beans or the price of corn can be dependent very much on maybe how many fish they catch off Portugal or how many soya beans they grow in Brazil.

So it seems logical that we should have some form of protection—whether you call it stabilization, income protection or crop protection; every one can use different terms—insurance. I suppose the thing that I reject most about this bill is that it is not a contributory bill. I think farmers should not be running to the government with hat in hand and kneeling before the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) and the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) and saying: "Please sir, they had a good crop of soya beans in Brazil last year and we need some money." Damn it, that's not the way the farmers should be operating and that's not the way they want to operate.

Interjections.

Mr. Ruston: They are willing, I'm sure, to contribute. If they want to join the plan, then they are willing to contribute something to it. I was just talking to my nephew across the road on Sunday, he said his beans averaged \$6.70 a bushel three years ago, last year they averaged \$5.80 a bushel and this year the average is \$4.85 a bushel. They went down about a dollar a bushel in the last three years, instead of going up. He tries to sell them on an every-couple-of-months basis, but he missed out a little bit on the market; although the other day he sold them at pretty well \$6 a bushel, ones he sold previous to that went for \$4.35 a bushel. His average price, for last year's crop, for what he has sold to now, comes to \$4.85 a bushel.

The stabilization plan the federal government has, I realize, is I suppose the best they can come up with. It's Canada-wide, it's not contributory. Their base price for soya beans is \$4.45 a bushel for the 1975 crop year, and \$2.11 a bushel for corn. In Essex and Kent counties, I am sure there is no one who can probably produce soya-beans at less than \$5 a bushel, at the price of things today. I am sure that it might even be higher, but I would put that at a very minimum to come out even.

I don't know what the average price will be for the 1975 crop, if it was based on the monthly selling price. I am just speaking of one person who averaged his cut at \$4.85 a bushel.

He is not eligible, of course, for anything under the federal stabilization plan. But since he is a young chap and looking forward to farming for the rest of his life, he would probably be interested in participating in some form of plan where he could contri-

bute something to it in the good years and then get something out of it in the lean years.

I suppose it is similar—and yet I don't suppose that some farmers would take it that way—to unemployment insurance. You contribute something to it, and if you can't find a job they pay you. If you didn't contribute anything to it, I suppose they could find ways and means of saying, "Well, you don't deserve anything now."

Basically, of course, the fair price the farmer receives should come out of the marketplace. I have always felt that there was not necessarily a shortage of food, but there was a shortage of distribution facilities. I think we are capable of producing a surplus of food in normal years. However, we must always be prepared at some time or other to run across what we call pretty lean years. Or, heaven help us, we never want to again have the drought years of the 1930s—but that can happen. So, we do need an ample food supply on hand, and sometimes we don't have that now—especially some of the European and Asian countries. Some of those countries can't produce enough to feed themselves, and yet in a lot of areas they have much better land than we do. Russia had what was known as the breadbasket of Europe and Asia from 1913 to 1915, but they lost the incentive to produce, so they don't produce very much any more.

I think the main thing for a proper income protection plan is that it must be contributory. I think the farmers must participate in it and they must be able to negotiate a price. I think that that's very important. The cost of production, as it rises, must be included in the prices they receive.

When the government brings in a bill that is completely different from what it talked about in the last provincial election campaign, it just makes you wonder what they are thinking about. Maybe there is something behind this of which we are not aware. They may be trying to precipitate an election—to bring one on. Maybe that might be what they are trying for. The Premier (Mr. Davis) was in Kemptville the other day—the day after I was there—and he said they are all ready for an election.

Mr. Ferrier: Why don't you go along with us so we can have the election?

Mr. Ruston: But that isn't necessarily what I hear from the Conservatives in my area.

Mr. Nixon: He is following you around trying to recoup his losses.

Mr. Ruston: We are looking forward, of course, to going back again and seeing what we can do to increase our members in eastern Ontario.

In speaking on this bill, our critic, the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell), has put very well—along with others—that we feel very strongly that the farmers must participate in it in order that they don't have to be coming down here to Queen's Park with hat in hand and bowing before the Minister of Agriculture and Food and asking him for assistance.

Mr. Villeneuve: Mr. Speaker, in rising to support Bill 96, I do so because I believe—

Mr. Mancini: Your first mistake in 30 years.

Mr. Villeneuve: —any approach we can make toward stabilizing farm produce is going to be most helpful.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You can learn a lot from him, I tell you.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: You won't be around here for 30 years, so don't worry about it.

Mr. Villeneuve: I happened to be in the federal House when the legislation was first enacted in 1957 and 1958, and at that time the opposition was critical but, all in all, it has served reasonably well though possibly not to the extent that some of us would want.

We realize the farmer has to get a fair return for his labour and, in particular, his very great investment. Thirty years ago a good dairy farmer in my area could buy the necessary machinery he needed to operate for less than \$5,000. Today it's only a reasonable downpayment on a tractor and therefore, irrespective of prices having improved, his cost of production has got him still in a squeeze. I do say we've got to approach this very carefully.

I think perhaps we have had a lesson taught to us in industrial milk production. I believe Mr. Whelan tried his utmost to be very helpful to the dairy farmers of Canada. But when there is an incentive and a good price return, naturally people have a tendency to overproduce. On top of that, in our area of eastern Ontario we have been adversely affected right at the present time because 80 per cent of our milk producers do not enjoy a fluid milk market. We are industrial milk producers and when you turn off the tap when the cattle are ready to milk

at the highest production, you've got to produce that surplus for \$1 a cwt loss under the present legislation and system.

You can understand why there was a demonstration a few weeks ago by the Quebec farmers in Ottawa because a good many of them have bought cattle at a high price. Today they've got no quotas, no place for an outlet for that milk, therefore, they are stuck with bills to pay which they cannot meet. I had a young farmer come to me three weeks ago who had borrowed \$125,000 with the best of intentions to produce a ton of milk a day. His quota is set this year at 600 pounds. The farm loan he's got is for 30 years and \$989 a month. Nobody did him any favour in allowing him to get into that position but, unfortunately, he's there today and has a wife and two children.

Unfortunately, we have priced ourselves out of the American market in selling cattle. Milk is cheaper there. We've got to be realistic. I'm not saying the producer is getting too much money—by no means. On the other hand, you've got to have the product within the reach of the people to buy and we have to be realistic and think in terms of the producer as well. I realize that.

Mr. Ferrier: That's why you should vote against the bill.

Mr. Villeneuve: No, that's not the solution to it and it is not an easy solution. I am pleased that the minister has offered this opportunity for all farm organizations to have an input into this legislation because I want open-minded discussion. Anything that will improve the bill or be helpful and **that will benefit the farmer is what I want done.** On the other hand, if you make too great an incentive, you're going to be in the position we are in as industrial milk producers.

[8:30]

The federal government, and our own government here in Ontario, encouraged farmers to increase production and gave them incentives by offering them loans partly free of interest. The result is many of them have indebted themselves and naturally have to have more income in order to meet those obligations they find themselves with. They are in a period of overproduction, they have no quota and they cannot sell. Therefore, this is a very complicated matter. It is not as easily resolved as some may think. Money may be helpful at the moment, but it is not the long-term solution.

Mr. Wildman: Your bill doesn't do it.

Mr. Villeneuve: I am in favour of any approach that in any way will benefit the producers in Ontario, whether they are vegetable growers, fruit growers or what have you, because we have no control against dumping. Therefore, I say it's a good piece of legislation. Certainly it can be improved as time goes on, but it's a step in the right direction. I do not maintain it is the cure for all the ills in agriculture, but certainly it is a forward movement. I honestly think people should reconsider their positions and support the bill, and leave it to the future to make the necessary amendments that will be profitable to the farmers of the province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon member for Timiskaming.

Mr. Makarchuk: Remind them there's farming in northern Ontario.

Mr. Evans: This will be great.

Mr. Bounsall: Should be. It's a farm riding.

Mr. Bain: Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride that I rise this evening to take part in the debate on Bill 96. There have been few bills that have been introduced into this Parliament that are of greater significance, not only to the farm community but to all the people of this province.

I feel the record of the Minister of Agriculture and Food has been particularly abysmal—not necessarily him personally, but his ministry in general. Young farmers were encouraged to get into the business through special loans. There was the IMPIP programme, which encouraged farmers to get into the business; now we have quotas being reduced and these farmers are in dire need of assistance. And what do we get? Patchwork, a piecemeal approach. Basically, the minister is telling them to hold out for a few months; maybe in a few months there will be something for them.

Earlier, we heard this minister blaming the federal government for the milk quotas—

Hon. W. Newman: We accepted our responsibility—

Mr. Bain: Why doesn't he do something positive to encourage the farmer to produce the milk and start distributing it in the schools again for children?

Hon. W. Newman: Why doesn't the hon. member find out what is going on before he talks about it?

Mr. Makarchuk: Stop spending the money on advertising and give them the milk.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Give us your socialist all-purpose solution.

Mr. Wildman: It's his riding, John.

Mr. Bain: The problems of farmers are very serious in this province. The need for honest straightforward farm income stabilization or farm income insurance is very great.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Talk to the farmers from Timmins. You know nothing about farming. You know nothing.

Mr. Bain: We'll listen to the member for Sault Ste. Marie talk about the bill in a few minutes if he will be indulgent.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Oh, go away and play your games.

Mr. Bain: Is that the extent of the hon. member's constructive contribution?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: That's the extent of my interest in what you have to say.

Mr. Bain: Then he is not concerned about the farmers in this province.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I'm more concerned than you are.

Mr. Ferrier: Go down to the bar and have a drink of milk.

Mr. Bain: As I was saying before I was interrupted by the member for Sault Ste. Marie, who is obviously not concerned about farm problems, the farm community felt that they were going to get an honest farm income stabilization programme. The government led them along to believe that. As in so many other cases where there is a very serious need, the minister mouthed the right words; but, when he finally brought forth the bill, it was a betrayal to those very words which he mouthed. Farm income stabilization or farm income insurance is needed by the farm community in this province. It's needed by the individual farmer and his family and, most important, it's needed by all the people in this province.

We have had a submission by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture this year which indicates that by the year 1985 Ontario is going to be facing food shortages. When you consider that in the year 1961-1962 in beef, pork, poultry, eggs, dairy products and vegetables we were self-sufficient and almost self-sufficient in potatoes and wheat flour, then consider that in 1985 we will be deficient in beef, where only 57 per cent of our needs will be satisfied, deficient in pork and poul-

try, deficient in dairy products, where only 58 per cent of our needs will be satisfied, deficient in fruit, deficient in potatoes and deficient in wheat flour. Why? Because the farmers are going out of production because you're allowing farm land to be paved over in parking lots and concrete, that's the reason why.

Interjections.

Mr. Bain: And 1985 is only nine years from now. What is the government going to do to keep the farmer on the land and to encourage him to produce the feed that we need now and will need much more desperately in a few years?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: You'll be the first to starve.

Mr. Bain: Are you going to tell us that we will let the natural market cycle, the free market, the free enterprise system—

Mr. Warner: There is nothing free about it.

Mr. Bain: —create food shortages, and then in a few years what few farmers do remain on the farm will get a high income, that's if there are many farmers left and if many of us can afford to buy the food.

Hon. W. Newman: You don't have any confidence in agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister will have his opportunity later on.

Interjections.

Mr. Bain: We hear a great deal about farm land going out of production. I would say the government is going to ensure that the land does not go out of production if it provides the farmer with at least an income. There's no farmer in this province who wants to see his farm become a subdivision. Farmers have a commitment to the land. The only reason they sell their farm to a developer is that they've spent their whole life scrimping and saving, putting everything into the farm, and that's the only retirement fund they have. The only time a farmer gets a decent income in this province is when he sells his farm.

Hon. W. Newman: You wouldn't know. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Warner: You should be, about this whole bill.

Mr. Bain: It's not surprising, when we see the real need for a farm income insurance programme, that this government has in the past supported the concept of that kind of a programme. In the Throne Speech delivered by the Lieutenant Governor this March, this was said:

The long-term security of Ontario depends in great measure on the protection of our agricultural production. To this end, in support of an overall effort to achieve a national plan for the farming community, provincial legislation will be introduced to establish a voluntary farm income stabilization plan.

There is no indication in that speech that it would be the kind of poor plan the government introduced.

The idea that it would be a comprehensive farm income insurance programme was again supported when the Minister of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs tabled his strategy for Ontario farm land. In this case, on page 11, the government got a little more specific. It spoke of:

A provincial commodity income stabilization programme providing farmers with a contributory income assurance plan covering major commodities.

What happened to that commitment?

Mr. Wildman: Answer that?

Mr. Bain: Then the minister gave his famous, or shall we say infamous, Ontario Federation of Agriculture speech on Nov. 25, in which he said:

Our proposal envisages a minimum 90 per cent guarantee to all producers.

In his speech he has underlined all producers. What happened to the commitment?

Mr. Makarchuk: Tell us now.

Hon. W. Newman: I will tell you tonight.

Mr. Bain: The minister's own leader, the Premier, said in his interview in Farm and Country:

This province can produce far more than at present. The greatest hang-up is that the farmer must feel there is a fair return for his work and investment.

Surely the minister is not going to tell me Bill 96 will ensure a fair return to the farmer for his work and investment?

Mr. MacDonald: Nothing for his investment.

Mr. Mackenzie: Don't you wish you kept quiet once in a while, Bill?

Hon. W. Newman: The member will put us all out of business.

Mr. Bain: What happens to the farmer? As we discuss this very bill tonight his costs continue to rise, continue to escalate. For example, in the last five years, and this is from Statistics Canada, the price of fertilizer has risen 250 per cent; the price of Hydro has gone up almost monthly for the farmer. What conceivable, what comparable increase has he received for the products he produces?

He hasn't, and that's the problem. The price the farmer pays for what he needs continues to increase yet his own income continues to decline relative to the prices he has to pay. Of the dollar the consumer pays for food, only 10 cents gets to the farmer.

Mr. Warner: The rest of it goes to Weston's.

Mr. Bain: Not only should the government provide an honest income stabilization programme for the farmer, why doesn't the government deal with the large corporations, many of them multinational, that control the food industry? Why doesn't the government tackle Weston's?

Mr. Warner: See what you can do to them.

Mr. Bain: See what you can do to them. One of the Weston companies, of course, is Loblaw's, with its little jingle, "By gosh, the price is right." It sure is true for them, but it is not true for the farmer.

Let us get back to the real foundation of the food industry, the farmer, and let's make sure that the farmer gets a little bit more than 10 cents of every dollar that is spent by the consumer on food in this province.

Hon. W. Newman: Why don't you talk with your agricultural critic? He didn't say that this afternoon.

Mr. Bain: Yes, he did.

Hon. W. Newman: Donald, did you say that this afternoon?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Help your friend, Donald, he is in trouble.

Mr. MacDonald: He is not in trouble, you are in trouble.

Mr. Bain: I see the member for Lambton has returned to the House.

Mr. MacDonald: The only reason the member for Lambton hasn't fallen down the hole is that there isn't a big enough hole.

Mr. Bain: I sat here earlier today and listened to the minister say that there were no members on this side of the House, in the official opposition, who have agriculture in their ridings. I've got news for you, Timiskaming has one of the largest agricultural communities in this province, let alone northern Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Timiskaming has the floor. Give him the courtesy of being heard.

Mr. Bain: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If we look at Bill 96 we see it will only cover a very few commodities—12 to 15 per cent of our agricultural industry, such commodities as potatoes, fruit, vegetables and maple products.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I can still hear the member for Lambton down there; will you keep your noise down?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Bain: To add insult to injury, this programme would only take the average price over the last five years and give the farmer 90 per cent of that. How many people in this province are asked to accept 90 per cent of an average of their wages over the last five years; how many?

Mr. Bounsall: Not many.

Mr. Bain: Not very many that I know of. Yet the government offers this kind of a programme, that will cover such few commodities. They say it's a mirror of the federal programme; well the federal programme has been grossly inadequate and has very few payouts. The government is simply compounding the problem by introducing this kind of a bill in this House.

Farm income insurance is sufficiently important that we need to have a real programme that takes into consideration a farmer's investment in terms of dollars and cents, his management investment, his labour investment as well, and gives him a fair return. Perhaps the government could use as

its model, although it has many shortcomings for this kind of a bill, could use as a model its cow-calf stabilization programme. I would respectfully submit that programme in fact is far more successful than the government thought it would be and I wouldn't be surprised at all if the ministry attempted to keep the basic price at 50 cents instead of increasing it in an attempt to detract even from that programme.

[8:45]

A farm income stabilization programme should involve the farmers in its running through negotiations to set the base price and to set the premiums they would contribute to it. It should have a premium; the farmer would pay a third of the cost through premiums; this government could pay two-thirds of that cost and, hopefully, the federal government will participate and when they do, they would pay a third.

So a third of the cost of that kind of an income stabilization programme for the farmers would come from premiums paid by the farmers, a third from the provincial government and a third from the federal government. It would provide a base price for all the commodities, regardless of whether they're under marketing boards or not, and this base price would be determined through negotiations with the various farm groups. If the government needed to set up some sort of a negotiating entity that included the various farm groups, it could do that.

It's important to include commodities that are already under marketing boards in an income insurance programme for farmers. We've seen most recently the milk producers in difficulty and perhaps a farm income insurance programme would alleviate some of this difficulty.

In conclusion I would like to leave the minister with these thoughts.

Mr. Warner: Resign.

Mr. Bain: The farm income insurance programme is too important to be sidestepped even for a moment with Bill 96. Bill 96 does not meet the real needs of the farm community. The minister is not living up to his earlier commitment to provide a farm income insurance programme for all commodities. He should do that. The farm community in this province is the basis of our prosperity in the sense that the basic production of food is the cornerstone of any society. If the minister doesn't realize that, if he doesn't take steps to ensure that there

will remain a strong, healthy, viable farm community in this province, he is doing a disservice not only to the farm community but to all the people of this province.

It is essential that we have a farm income stabilization programme to avoid food shortages that are looming on the horizon. It is essential that we have a farm income insurance programme not only to provide a decent income for farmers already in the business but to attract new farmers. It's essential that we have a farm income insurance programme to provide a sound economic footing upon which to build a viable, prosperous farm economy in this province. Failure to do that will be to deny the legitimate needs of the farm community in this province.

Mr. Spence: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to take part in this debate on Bill 96, the Farm Income Stabilization Act. I must state to the minister with due respect I was very disappointed when I first read this bill. I was hoping the minister would make this bill a contributory bill. I know he knows the farmers of this province are a very independent group. The farmers of this province would like this bill to be contributory. They don't like to be living on subsidies. They'd like to be able to contribute to a farm income stabilization programme.

Over the last number of years the agricultural industry has gone through many difficult periods. This bill is a step in the right direction, but it hasn't gone as far as we on this side of the House would like it to. I must say to the minister the farmers of this province would like more commodities covered under this stabilization bill, so that the farmers could have an income that is satisfactory to keep the operation a viable industry.

Many people have fallen into the habit of calling Bill 96 the farm income stabilization bill, but you will notice that the government has very carefully used the title, An Act respecting Farm Income Stabilization. It is a name which surely covers a multitude of sins, or perhaps I should say a multitude of shortcomings.

If this is typical of the kind of legislation that we can expect from this government, no doubt we shall some time be asked to consider a bill recommending that people should stop smoking cigarettes for the sake of their health, masquerading as an Act respecting air pollution in this province.

This bill is little more than a phoney public relations exercise. In no respect can it be considered an honest and sincere attempt to establish a genuine and effective farm income stabilization programme as legislation. It is totally inadequate and as a gesture to the farmers of the province it is an insult to their intelligence.

More than a year ago, the government in the Throne Speech promised that measures would be introduced to provide Ontario farmers with a reasonable assurance of a profitable, continuing operation of their vital enterprise. What kind of assurance is given in this bill, which provides only a measure of income protection for farmers producing something like 15 per cent of the dollar value of Ontario's farm products?

How can farmers continue to operate a profitable enterprise when their costs continue to increase at a pace far outreaching farm gate prices?

Ontario farm capital today is approximately 50 per cent greater than it was 15 years ago. With the reduction in the actual number of farms, the investment per farm is something like 95 per cent greater. Yet, the Minister of Agriculture and Food estimates that the average net income for Ontario farms in 1975 was \$9,200. Would any businessman consider \$9,200 an adequate return for an investment of similar magnitude?

Since the beginning of time, farming has been an endeavour in which man's effort has contributed to only a limited extent to its ultimate success or failure. Farmers may have all the knowledge in the world. They may work from dawn to dusk—and usually do. They may have the best soil, the finest equipment, the highest quality stock, seed and fertilizers. But there are still the imponderables, such as the temperature, rainfall, the possibility of crop failures or livestock losses, of falling market prices, or a glut of food in the marketplace. Against these things, they have always had little or no protection whatsoever. Farmers who fail frequently do so because of circumstances entirely beyond their control. That is why some form of income stabilization is necessary. That is why some form of income stabilization is long overdue.

This bill which we are discussing looks like the beginning of an election in this province. Perhaps there is a degree of poetic justice in this. In fact, this should be so. Over the years, voting patterns in Ontario have changed almost beyond recognition. At one time farmers and agricultural communities in the prov-

ince were a dominant economic factor, wielding considerable influence in this Legislature. With the advance of technology, and the enormous growth of the urban centres, the pendulum of voting power has changed and swung the other way.

Times have indeed changed, but the problems and needs of the farmer remain very much the same. All the newspapers give a great deal of coverage to problems of our urban centres. I don't feel that these economic difficulties under which our farmers and agriculturists work are given the attention they deserve. Obviously the needs of the city dweller and our industrial workers must be taken into account; but robbing Peter to pay Paul was never a good idea in the past. Neglecting the needs of the farmers will in no way benefit the town dwellers; quite the reverse, because whatever else may have changed in this modern age, everyone has the need to eat.

Agriculture in this province represents an enormous investment, providing the basis of a very diversified, connected industry. The economic well-being of rural Ontario has been vital to the balance, and doubtless will always be vital, although it would seem that the present government of Ontario would like to push this fact around until they lose it.

Food prices have become a matter of real concern to many people. It is obvious that the food and agriculture industry is reaching a point of crisis. Clearly it is time that all levels of government make a sincere effort to bring this situation under control. We had all attached considerable importance to the government promise of an effective farm income stabilization programme. I believe I speak for the majority of my fellow farmers when I say that Bill 96 is a bitter disappointment, a very bitter disappointment indeed.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food has chosen to disagree with statistics which show that the farm land of Ontario is going out of production at a rate which is almost frightening. As a private individual, if he chooses to act like the ostrich and bury his head in the sand that's his own business. However, as the Minister of Agriculture and Food in this province, if he chooses to ignore the facts that's the business of every farmer in Ontario who realizes the seriousness of this situation.

Many of our older farmers are retiring and going out of active farming. Younger men who might have taken over from these veterans are discouraged when they look at the price of operating a farm—the cost of the necessary machinery, the long hours, the

frequent small net returns. Consequently, more and more of our productive farm land will lie idle unless answers are found to the difficulties of the agriculture industry in this province. The food prices will then go even higher, there will be a very real possibility of an actual food shortage in the future.

An effective farm income stabilization bill would have done much to improve the near crisis situation which has been developing for some time. It has been estimated that such a programme would have cost something in the region of \$100 million. The government's proposed legislation has been estimated to involve something like \$7 million or \$8 million.

The bill doesn't come anywhere near meeting the needs of our farmers. In fact it is difficult to believe that even the government itself would have us accept that it is intended to do so. The bill does not even fulfil the commitments made by the Minister of Agriculture and Food at various meetings around this province.

[9:00]

I understand this bill is considered by the government to be an important first step—but certainly not toward a degree of financial security for farmers. As at present drafted, Bill 96 is little more than token legislation. We all know this. It will never cover all the commodities already provided by the federal plan or the commodities which have quotas and prices set by marketing boards in this province.

The bill is totally inadequate and makes no attempt to come to grips with the difficulties which our farmers are experiencing. As a member of the Liberal Party in this Legislature, I shall vote against it in the hope that its defeat will impress upon the government the vital importance of bringing in a farm income stabilization bill that will meet the needs of the agriculture industry in the Province of Ontario. As a farmer speaking on behalf of many farmers in this province, I would like to say to the Minister of Agriculture and Food the best thing he can do with Bill 96 is paper his office walls with it as a constant warning that the farmers of this province cannot be fooled by phoney legislation.

An hon. member: That's mild. He's being kind to the minister.

Mr. Warner: Paper the walls and then resign.

Mr. Spence: We're not asking for charity, we're asking for justice. We're not interested in empty promises, we want action. The minister will ignore us at his peril now because we have a long memory and we shall remember this day when the next election comes along.

Mr. Johnson: I would like to speak on behalf of Bill 96 and urge its adoption before this House. We've witnessed in the past few days and in the past few hours considerable political manoeuvring on behalf of the opposition parties and especially by some of my good friends on the Liberal benches.

Mr. Warner: I'm not surprised at that.

Mr. Johnson: I've studied the provisions of the Farm Income Stabilization Act and I find on the whole that the legislation is highly useful and workable. It is an effective answer to the needs of Ontario producers in specified commodities.

Interjections.

Mr. Johnson: Certainly by no means all farmers need it, because all farmers do not want the state telling them when to punch a time clock, when to have breakfast and when to go to bed. My friends opposite in the NDP are already displeased.

Mr. Warner: Why don't you get serious?

Mr. Johnson: The NDP simply does not want the truth out. The basic truth is that the NDP farming policy aims at bringing a promised paradise to Ontario's farmers by first introducing a comprehensive land freeze in classes 1, 2 and 3—

Mr. Davidson: Speak to the bill.

Mr. Johnson: —in order to maintain full production at levels to meet Ontario's growing population.

Mr. Eaton: They say the one goes with the other.

Mr. Davidson: Speak to the bill.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel has the floor.

Mr. Johnson: The NDP farm critic has said so—

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Is land not a public resource any more?

Mr. Johnson: —many times in various communities across Ontario. On the other hand,

his leader in projecting the new moderate image suggests that other state means must be tried before resorting to a land freeze policy.

Mr. Wildman: Are you talking about land use or farm income stabilization?

Mr. Johnson: I would like to quote from the Globe and Mail.

Mr. Davidson: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Yes, point of order.

Mr. Davidson: He is not speaking to the bill, he is speaking to a land use policy and that is not what Bill 96 is about.

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Yes, I think that the member was straying a little bit from the principle of the bill. I would ask him to speak to the farm income stabilization principle in this bill.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: He is speaking to the principle of the bill.

Mr. Johnson: I'm sorry. It was my impression that I heard some of the members in the opposition speaking on land use.

Mr. Eaton: You certainly did.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: They wouldn't know the difference.

Mr. Acting Speaker: However, some of them were a little bit out of order and I hope that you would speak more to the principle of stabilization.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I noticed tonight during the debate that both parties on the other side of the House spoke on land use at some length and I have notes to prove it. I will be talking about it myself and I hope you will not rule out the hon. member from talking about that, because they have done just that tonight.

Mr. Acting Speaker: I would hope that the member will speak more to the principle of the bill. If he can work that into his presentation that would be—

Hon. Mr. Henderson: He is speaking to the principle of the bill.

Mr. Acting Speaker: We will permit the member to continue and, if he can work this into his presentation, we will accept it.

Mr. Makarchuk: You are using up valuable time.

Mr. Bullbrook: I think the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) is better.

Mr. Johnson: When I talk to any farmers in my riding, they seem uncertain about the NDP's farm programme, but mention land freeze and they immediately become very certain about such an absurd proposal. They want no part or parcel of any such hare-brained scheme, and rightly so. Farmers have worked long hours all their lives to gain what they now possess. They reject outright any abstract NDP interpretation of the public interest, as simply a handy way of interfering more and more in their lives.

They want to be left alone as much as possible. A land freeze does not provide them with that choice or that freedom. Farmers still value their independence; society must respect that value. Let the public record show conclusively what happens when any NDP government starts an across-the-board freeze on good farm land. The producers become angry and hostile. Just look at British Columbia's Land Commission when a general freeze was instituted.

Against this background, this government has introduced in an orderly fashion a farm income stabilization bill which makes certain that the horse is in front of the cart rather than in the reverse manner, as is so fashionable for the NDP.

Mr. Wildman: Did you write this?

Mr. Johnson: Let's examine NDP criticisms of this bill. NDP members argued that the legislation is insufficient in the amount of money to be laid out. My question is, what would be sufficient to satisfy our friends opposite?

Mr. Bain: A complete farm income stabilization programme.

Mr. Makarchuk: The same amount that General Motors gets.

Mr. Johnson: I gather by the conflicting answers that the sky is the limit. Subsidize each and every commodity so that the producers' production, labour, investment and management costs are adequately covered.

Mr. Wildman: Not subsidization.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Johnson: The key word here is "adequate" and its interpretation. To the NDP the most adequate coverage would be the Rolls-Royce type of farm income. Remove

all the risks from farming and guarantee absolutely the farmers' income.

Mr. Makarchuk: Why not?

Mr. Johnson: It amounts to a guaranteed farm income for all producers at the expense of the Ontario taxpayers—

Mr. Bain: Even you can't spit it out. It is hard enough for you to swallow.

Mr. Johnson: —and discrimination against the small businessman, a figure whom the NDP have suddenly discovered and have started to revere.

Mr. Wildman: This is very close to the principle of the bill.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Johnson: How about a guaranteed income for the small businessman? Will a guaranteed income for the farmers take their initiative away? Will the aggressive productive farmer be penalized to subsidize his less ambitious neighbour? And what about costs to the farmer? How much effect has labour strife and the increased cost associated with these strikes to do with the farmer's increased costs?

Mr. Warner: What about the cost of Weston's in the whole province? They control the industry.

Mr. Evans: Listen to the oracle over there.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Would the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel continue? If there were fewer interjections from both sides of the House, he would be able to continue.

Mr. Johnson: For the benefit of the NDP, I would like to read a short quotation from the *Globe and Mail* of Thursday, May 13, which states that "Canada ranked first in time lost by strikes." That has to have an impact on the cost of all the equipment that the farmers have to buy. This government's plan reflects the real needs of farmers more closely than the NDP cares to admit. In fact, I have many farmers in my own riding who question the need for any income scheme from the government.

Mr. Wildman: Then why are you introducing one?

Mr. Makarchuk: How much time was lost in accidents?

Mr. Breithaupt: Then you must vote against the bill.

Mr. Johnson: Farmers by nature are individuals and are highly independent. That is not intended as criticism or to imply a lack of knowledge about public affairs. It is a fact of life which the opposition parties fail to understand or even want to understand.

Interjections.

Mr. Johnson: There are some farmers who question the scope of the present legislation and other farmers who think the scope is insufficient. That is why the bill as presented represents a reasonable and moderate approach to the problem of farm income.

Mr. Wildman: You don't please anybody.

Mr. Johnson: As the minister has pointed out time and time again the bill provides an appropriate balance between the all-embracing income scheme of the NDP and the Liberals and a bill which meets the real needs of farmers.

(Unlike the socialists' smothering love-in for farm income, this government's legislation represents a realistic farm insurance programme in the event of natural disaster emergency. A means to help farmers when they are down and are looking for a helping hand instead of the ever-tightening hug of the socialist bear.

Mr. Warner: This is a natural disaster.

Mr. Johnson: You like that. I appeal to the depths of experience within the ranks of the Liberal Party. By supporting the present legislation they help farmers in their determination to produce quality food. Don't hurt farmers because everything you want is not in the bill, rather let's work together to assist the farmer where he or she needs the help. By supporting the NDP bear-hug approach, my Liberal friends are helping Ontario go the way of British Columbia on this matter and making it difficult, further down the road, to work the provincial income programme in with the national plan.

(We all live in one big Canada. This government prefers to see a national plan in place rather than a fragmented and isolated programme as the NDP favours. Surely Ontario Liberals support their own federal government's scheme, rather than the ill-conceived and pie-in-the-sky—

Mr. Bullbrook: There are two parties; they have nothing to do with each other. Be serious, would you; what obligation have we got to them? We are provincial Liberals, do you understand that?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Johnson: —farm income scheme. Otherwise I must rethink whether my provincial Liberal colleagues understand what socialist farming is all about. If they support this bill they support a national plan in the long run.

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Johnson: Farmers in society end up gaining the real benefit.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Will the House be quiet too so the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel can continue?

Mr. Bullbrook: He is being provocative, it is hard to resist.

Mr. Johnson: Isn't that what we as legislators are here to do—to work for the best interest of society as a whole instead of always catering to special interests? Let's put this bill through in that spirit and send it to committee for close scrutiny and improvement.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I approach this topic as a very serious one, but I find it very difficult to do that after hearing the contributions to the debate of the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel and the member for Lambton. I just want to follow up on a few things which I think the previous speaker just said. I think he said that he doesn't want farmers to have to be told by the state when to eat breakfast and when to go to bed. I don't really think that that is in the bill and I don't think anyone here would advocate that sort of thing. I think that some people should be able to decide for themselves when to go to bed and when to eat breakfast.

Interjection.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Would the member deal with the principle of the bill, if he recognizes it is not in the bill.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, the previous member was dealing with the bill. He said, for instance, that farmers didn't want an income protection plan—or at least a large number of farmers in his riding didn't want to have it. Yet he turns around and supports a bill that purports to be a farm income protection bill. I don't quite understand the logic, but that's what he said.

He also said that he thought this bill would protect the farmer against a national disaster. Quite frankly, I think the bill itself is a national disaster.

[9:15]

Mr. Makarchuk: So's the whole Tory party.

Mr. Wildman: The member went to great length talking about land use, which I don't really think is in the bill, but since he felt—

Hon. W. Newman: Why doesn't the member read the bill?

Mr. Wildman: —it was related to the bill; in a way it is, obviously. If we want to keep farmers on the land, then obviously we have to give them a decent income.

I think it's important, though, that we should remember what a couple of these government members have said. For instance, they said that farmers don't want a socialist programme in Ontario; but then they turned around and say that the kind of programme that we are suggesting can only work if it is national in scope and they would support it if it were national in scope. They won't support a socialist programme if it's in Ontario, but they'll support it if it's national in scope. Now that's real logic.

The member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson) went to great lengths talking about which members in our caucus had farmers in their riding. I really don't understand how he could ignore the fact there are a large number of farmers in Algoma, not like southwestern Ontario, especially since the greatest contribution of the former member for this riding to this Legislature was maple syrup. I really don't understand how this member could ignore the fact that my riding has a large number of dairy producers and beef producers.

Hon. W. Newman: He did a lot more than that too.

Mr. Wildman: The dairy producers and beef producers in my riding need a lot of support and need a lot of help, because we don't have the kind of fertile land they have in southern Ontario. We have very difficult weather conditions; we have large transportation costs, much larger than southern Ontario farmers, that make the cost of production very great and mean that we need to have some kind of programme that is going to protect the farmer against the ups and downs of the boom-bust cycle that farmers have faced for so long.

The Conservative government claims they're introducing that kind of programme with their so-called stabilization bill, which is so similar to the Liberal bill they've been criticizing for two years now. One of the main excuses of the government for not introducing a bill earlier than this has been that it had to be a federal plan in scope and that the federal government's plan was inadequate. Now they turn around and introduce a bill which is going to follow the national plan. Again, I don't quite understand the logic.

The Tories have been promising farm income protection for two years; but really, as we've seen with this bill, all of those promises have just turned out to be plain stonewalling. There's never been any real desire on the part of this government to provide farm income protection in any real sense. Really, if we were to support this bill, which covers so few of the farm products in Ontario, we would be betraying the Ontario farmers.

This plan, that goes along with the federal plan that's been criticized for so long, really only covers a small minority of farm products. The minister and his supporters can argue, Mr. Speaker, that it protects perhaps 20 to 25 per cent or 27 per cent or 28 per cent, or whatever they want to use. We really don't agree with that, we can't see that it protects more than 15 per cent; but even if it did protect that many, that's still a very small minority and it's certainly not the major commodity groups in Ontario.

The large percentage of farmers are not protected and would be ineligible under the legislation. Again, the logic escapes me as to how the government can argue for so long that a federal plan is inadequate, and then introduce a plan which follows along with it and say that is an adequate plan. Farm income stabilization can't be the kind of plan that is produced here; the farm groups have rejected it and we reject it.

The income stabilization plan as operated by the federal Liberals, and now apparently advocated by the provincial Tories, really is a subsidization plan. They keep arguing over there that the farmers don't want subsidies; that's correct, farmers don't want subsidies. It's our position that farmers would be willing and do want to become involved in an income insurance plan; and that's not a subsidy plan, farmers have had enough of subsidy plans.

This plan is going to protect them by guaranteeing 90 per cent of the average market price over the last five years, with some kind of adjustment in the current year—

we don't know exactly what, but some kind of adjustment in the current year. Basically, all this is going to do is cover out-of-pocket expenses. It doesn't really deal with or cover the labour, management or investment if it happens to be a bad year and there has to be a payout in the programme. As far as we are concerned, farmers have had enough of subsidy programmes. One subsidy piled upon another just makes for a lot of bureaucracy and red tape and doesn't really solve farmers' problems.

Basically, subsidies are only designed to keep the farmer from going completely broke. They don't really deal with the overall problem of giving some kind of stability to the whole farm income picture.

One farmer in my riding, who is enrolled in the cow-calf programme, said to me: "A lot of farmers will say that the programme is better than nothing. But in a way, it is not even better than nothing, because all it does is keep you treading water instead of drowning. But you never are able to swim. You are never able to get out of the water; you are just able to keep your head above water."

The cow-calf programme as introduced by this government, which is better than the programme that is introduced by this bill, only gave farmers about eight cents per pound above their out-of-pocket expenses. That is certainly better than nothing, I would agree, but it doesn't cover anything like the management and investment that farmers have put into the production of the beef.

An hon. member: No wonder they beef about it.

Mr. Wildman: So basically, the government wants to subsidize in this plan. I mean, they are paying for it out of public funds. There is no contribution by the farmers; it is a subsidy. If this government believes that farmers are against subsidies, why on earth are they introducing a plan like this? Farmers have had enough of subsidies.

We in the NDP have had enough of this approach as well. Instead, we advocate, and I think the Liberals agree with us, a voluntary farm income insurance plan to break the boom-bust cycle farmers have faced for so long. It would give farmers enough income security to encourage them to stay on the land and to farm it.

Base farm prices should be negotiated each year by the government and representative farm groups to cover the cost of production during the current year and to provide a

fair return on investment, management, and labour.

Both the government and the participating farmers would pay premiums into such plans—therefore it is not a subsidy—to build up an insurance fund that in a poor year could compensate the participating producers for the drop in prices.

We are talking about an insurance plan, and this government has been promising that kind of plan to farmers, but they haven't brought it into this House for debate. This government has copped out on their promises to the farmers, just as they have copped out for years. The fact that the member for Lambton didn't realize there were any northern members with farmers in their ridings indicates how much this government really knows about farming in this province.

Interjections.

Mr. Wildman: We believe these plans must be adopted now and that they should be set up in consultation with the farm organizations to ensure that they serve the needs of the Ontario producers. That is why we are moving the reasoned amendment suggesting that we refer this back to the government to give the government time to consult with the farm groups and the different commodity groups as to what kind of plan could be introduced that would be contributory and which would serve the needs of the farmers.

We have had enough of the inadequate subsidy approach of this government. We believe it is time to negotiate farm income protection programmes that will ensure long-term security for the people who produce the food of this province; and in that way serve the interests of all of the people of the province who consume that food.

I would hope that the members of the House would support the reasoned amendment. We would certainly be willing to look at whatever changes the Liberal Party is going to introduce in an amendment to that amendment—and hope that we would be able to produce a plan that would really serve the needs of Ontario's farmers.

Mr. Mancini: I rise to oppose this bill. I think it falls far short of the expectations that this government has led the farm community of Ontario to expect. I think it falls far short of the expectations of the farmers themselves.

I have to say to the Minister of Agriculture and Food that since Sept. 18 he has had the opportunity to speak in many farm districts of this province. He has played the

same tune over and over again—that he is concerned about farmers and that he wants to help them in their plight, and it is always Ottawa that is in the way. Well, I dare to disagree with the minister.

I believe, and we in this party believe, the farmers in this province want a voluntary plan, one with a premium paid by the farmers themselves and by the Ontario government, with all commodities and marketing boards included, and with all commodities that are already under the protection of the federal government. We are tired of the minister sitting there and blaming Ottawa; that's why we have a Minister of Agriculture and Food here in Ontario, so he can come to their aid when it is necessary.

One last point I would like to make—I don't want to repeat everything twice—is that during the discussions on the future of this bill, I surely would want the Minister of Agriculture and Food to take into consideration farm family labour as part of the cost of production. We feel, and the farmers feel, that if their family is part of the cost of production, they surely are entitled to have that shown.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe.

Mr. Riddell: Don't say anything you don't believe in now, George.

Mr. Reed: Say something about the corridor. Stick to your script.

Mr. Gregory: Keep it simple so they will understand.

Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, I rise to defend this bill.

Mr. Warner: "Defend" is the right word.

Mr. McCague: I want first to respond to the reasoned amendment put forward by the New Democratic Party.

Never has one amendment said so much about how little one political party knows about the farming community. Never has one amendment said so much about the cynicism of one political party toward the farmer. Never has one amendment said so much about one party's contempt for the Legislature.

Mr. Wildman: Are you talking about the bill or the amendment?

Mr. McCague: My colleagues and I will be proud to oppose that reasoned amendment, and let me tell you why, Mr. Speaker.

First, the amendment would serve to hoist, delay and seek the approval of this House for the postponement, with no guarantee, of a very important bill for the farmers of Ontario.

Mr. Warner: There is no date affixed in there.

Mr. McCague: That may be the brand of politics across the way, but it is not the approach of this government.

We have brought forward a bill that is necessary. Secondly—and this may come as a surprise to our friends across the way, our friends who believe that they have a monopoly on participatory government and consultation—when this bill is allowed to go to committee, as the farmers would like to see happen, there would be no difficulty at all, in a standing committee of this House, in undertaking the fullest possible consultation with the farming community—

Mr. Warner: They should have been consulted first.

Mr. McCague: —to allow for the input that this government has always welcomed and always will. But my friends, there is a difference. The input we want is input based on the assumption that there will be a bill that will help farmers. Our friends opposite want some wishy-washy consultation on an insurance scheme.

Mr. Deans: Wishy-washy consultation?

Mr. Warner: This kind of consultation is wishy-washy?

Mr. Deans: Who wrote that?

Mr. McCague: Maybe they want to do to the farmers what the NDP governments in certain provinces have done to car owners.

Interjections.

Mr. McCague: Maybe they want a plan which just has farmers paying in with no payout for the farmer when things get rough.

Mr. Wildman: We just want it good for the farmers.

Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, that type of sellout of the farmers is simply not good enough for the Progressive Conservative government of Ontario. We want a more concrete framework for the farmers of Ontario. We are offering them a commitment through this legislation and, ultimately, it is the Legislature which will decide if that commit-

ment shall be carried through. The NDP reasoned amendment is a sellout of the magnitude we have not seen for some time.

[9:30]

Mr. Swart: Look around you.

Mr. McCague: A totally urban party doesn't understand. Unless the bill has in it the language of the bureaucracy, like income insurance, the socialists feel uncomfortable. When you talk the language of the farmer, the language of stabilization, the NDP feels uncomfortable. The NDP amendment is interesting in another sense.

Mr. Deans: Is this why I am giving you research money?

Mr. McCague: They want broad consultations, provided, of course, the terms being used are those of farm income insurance; yet they will not allow a committee of this House to move with a concrete proposal and seek advice, suggestions and, if necessary, amendments. They will not allow that because they will vote to stop the bill.

Interestingly enough but not surprisingly, the Liberals appear to be with them on that; with them in denying the people a chance to look at the bill; with them in denying a committee of the Legislature, on which the opposition parties would have a majority, to seek the views of all farm organizations in Ontario and all farm groups. This government has tremendous respect for the Federation of Agriculture but we must have respect also for individuals as well. We won't be dictated to by any one group in this province, unlike the two parties opposite.

Mr. Eakins: You tell 'em.

Mr. McCague: We will oppose the reasoned amendment and support the bill. I want to mention some of the things that this government has done for the farmers, and there has been reference made to lack of programmes. I hope all members remember the farm tax reduction programme, the capital grants programme, the northern Ontario agricultural development grant, the young farmers' credit programme, ARDA grants, industrial milk incentive loans and the drainage loan.

Mr. Eakins: A good speech; who wrote it?

Interjection.

Mr. McCague: Thank you very much for the compliment. I would just like the members opposite to be cognizant of the situation

which may well arise in Niagara region. It has already been noted that there is considerable frost damage to the crops and I would hate to see the parties opposite deny those fruit growers the opportunity to participate in this programme.

Mr. Riddell: They get designated under the programme.

Mr. McCague: There is nothing wrong with Bill 96, even though the opposition parties can argue that the bill should go further. We can do no harm with the bill as printed.

Mr. G. I. Miller: It gives me a great deal of pleasure to speak on Bill 96, which we are opposing. I would like to quote on behalf of Gordon Hill:

The Ontario government's farm income stabilization legislation is of almost no potential benefit to Ontario farmers, said Mr. Hill.

I would like to point out that the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture was very critical of Mr. Hill. I feel that the Federation of Agriculture under his leadership has contributed much to agriculture in Ontario and for the advancement and a better return on behalf of all farmers in Ontario.

Mr. Riddell: The president of the federation speaks very highly of the parliamentary assistant. I just can't understand it. He didn't consult with the minister first.

Mr. G. I. Miller: I would like to point out too that the vice-president on hearing the details of the legislation commented:

Once again the Ontario government has proffered its usual hollow carrot to the Ontario farmers.

In the past, the financial returns for good food production in Canada has not been sufficient to enable the food producers to compete in the market with other potential users of land, such as industry and urban development. Consequently, much food land has been lost and food producers have been forced to move to other and less productive land, which must indicate policies to assist food producers to keep valuable food land in production.

Any effective provincial agricultural policy must contain measures which afford farmers adequate income protection, combined with the means to preserve prime agricultural land specifically for food production. Clearly, any policy which neglected the welfare of the farmer would not only be unjust but would also be inefficient and would ulti-

mately fail in its objective of insuring our food supplies and protecting our agricultural land.

There is increasing evidence of the need to insure farm income stability in this province. For a long time farmers have struggled to gain economic and social stability and many farmers have only obtained income security upon retirement, after they have sold their farm holdings. Economic pressures have forced thousands of farmers to leave farming and many thousands more have had to supplement their farm income with off-farm employment, at least on a part-time basis. Moreover, young people are not being encouraged to go into farming. I think, again, the IMPIP programme brought in by the government two years ago put young farmers in the financial position where they were unstable and many of them, even some in my riding, were in a financial position that they could lose their investment plus their lifetime savings.

I think income stability is more important today than ever before because of price uncertainty. Farmers cannot be expected to continue investing in new machinery, in buying more land and in all of the other production costs in an effort to increase production, unless and until they receive some guarantee and some assurance that increased production will not lead to short-term surpluses which ruin prices and force them into bankruptcy.

The Liberal Party is in favour of a farm income stabilization programme, on a voluntary basis, which would guarantee a viable income to full-time farmers who are prepared to enter into such a plan and contribute premiums. Such a plan would be financed by a combination of farmer payments and contributions from provincial and federal governments. Costs of production for each commodity would be established co-operatively by the farmers' organizations, by marketing boards and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food rather than it being a subsidy programme. When market prices fall below the established cost of production, a make-up payment would come from the insurance plan and the plan would provide insurance only against the failure of the policy. It would be directed toward having consumers pay the legitimate cost of quality food production.

Farm marketing board procedures would be utilized to gear production to consumption, and the cost of production plus a reasonable profit. Under this scheme the farmer would not have to worry about his

increasing input costs because he would have a reasonable assurance that he would at least recover his costs of production.

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, Bill 96 really isn't worth talking about but it does give us a chance to put forth a few reasons why we should have a good income protection plan, and we will try and amend this bill sufficiently to do just that.

In a newspaper article just recently, the headlines were, "Healthy Agriculture Leads to a Strong Nation." It points out every country needs a healthy agricultural community or that country just doesn't prosper.

In the same article it also mentions where the county director of education received a \$9,500 raise, up from \$38,000 to \$47,500, in a year. I'm sure there are a great many farmers in this province that are getting along on less than the increase, the \$9,500, let alone receiving that kind of a salary.

The member for Lambton stated that if we had any consideration for the farmers in Ontario we would vote for this bill. Well we certainly do have consideration for 100 per cent of the farmers in Ontario, and not just the 13 per cent that this bill covers. The member for Middlesex stated that the bloom was off income stabilization plans in other provinces.

Mr. Eaton: I was quoting what was said by someone from British Columbia.

Mr. McKessock: If he is a true farmer, he should know when the bloom is off that's when the harvest begins.

I certainly have often agreed with the minister when he condemned the federal stabilization plan. It was therefore amazing to me that he came out with a plan of similar make-up, which suggests a payment of 90 per cent of the average price over the last five years. I could never quite understand the relevance of the last five years to the cost of production.

The federal stabilization plan has been so inadequate that that is why we asked for a voluntary provincial farm income protection plan to cover all farm products. This one that the minister has come in with, Bill 96, covers no livestock, unless we count rabbits, and some fruits and vegetables. In talking to the apple growers in my riding, I find that they too will soon come under the federal Bill C-50, which will make them ineligible for the provincial plan. So I can't see what good it is going to be, except for the Conservative government to be able to say that they brought in legislation for an income stabilization plan.

Mr. Riddell: Just to cover their flanks.

Mr. McKessock: What is the use of bringing in a plan that is as shallow as this one and covers next to nothing? Also, how are we going to support the agricultural industry in Ontario with only \$6 million? The motor companies set their prices based on the cost of production plus a profit, and the government saw fit to drop the sales tax for them, indirectly giving them a subsidy of \$45 million in a few short months last year. The government gave people who bought new homes for the first time a subsidy of \$135 million. But it gives the farmers in Ontario \$6 million or \$7 million.

I can see how the minister doesn't mean it when he talks about not wanting imports, but in fact he is encouraging them more and more, because with the little bit of lackadaisical support that he gives the Ontario farmers in Bill 96, the farmers will continue to disappear in Ontario.

Mr. Eaton: Is that bill going to stop imports?

Mr. McKessock: Each year, the imports will continue to rise until in a very few years we will be very dependent on other provinces and other countries for our food. Other provinces have taken steps to protect agriculture in their province, but this government would rather leave Ontario's agricultural future in the hands of the federal government.

It is not that Quebec has passed an unfair piece of legislation against Ontario, but rather that Quebec has given her agriculture a real stabilization still wanting in Ontario. Just after the minister bragged about increasing the production of milk in Ontario so that we won't lose it to other provinces, he came in with a stabilization plan that does nothing for these farmers, who raised that production for the minister and, in doing so, got themselves into an awful financial mess.

What is the difference whether we lose milk production last year or next year to other provinces? We are certainly going to lose it with this type of a programme.

The production increase has been accomplished through the IMPIP loans and by encouraging farmers to produce to receive the forgivable part of the loans. The minister could do something to keep the new shippers, and the shippers who expanded last year, by bringing in the dairy business into the stabilization plan also. It is not only the new shippers and the ones who have expanded who are in trouble, but also the farmers who have brought their sons into the business. They cannot afford that 15 per cent cut in quota.

I said at the time this cut happened to the dairy business that it was too bad the farm stabilization plan was not in force to take care of this temporary situation. It is temporary because the can shippers have to stop shipping in cans by October, 1977, and there will be a lot of those farmers who won't go bulk and will cease to ship milk.

[9:45]

If the government does not do something to help these dairy farmers who are in trouble they will be going bankrupt and in about a year you'll be looking for more milk and it won't be long, probably, until you are looking to Quebec for it.

I do not see how I can support this bill in its present form. I dealt briefly, in my reply to the Throne Speech, with the farm income stabilization plan which the Ontario Federation of Agriculture had recommended. If this Bill 96 could be changed and be administered along these lines, and cover all farm products, then I would support it.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, through you to the minister, the real reason we need our farm income stabilization plan—I would rather say price protection plan—is to ensure the continuation of the family farm. Without production they will become extinct and the large corporations will take over; and then watch the price of food rise. They will not become extinct because they are inefficient, far from it, but because they cannot afford to produce at a loss to ride out the bad years the way the large corporations can. We also need protection of this sort to ensure the continuation of a strong agricultural industry in Ontario, now and forever. Each year Ontario is dropping in its percentage of production in many agricultural products in Canada. Agriculture is a continuous, ongoing resource which this country was built on; it could save this country again in the years to come if we give it adequate attention now.

The plan itself is to give protection on all farm commodities similar to what the OFA has recommended. I'm in favour of such a plan, with government and producer participation. The price of products should be direct cost plus reasonable interest on investment on a specified amount of production. The amendments proposed on this bill will allow for full participation of the farm people and farm organizations to change this bill, and I have faith in the farm organizations in this province to present the facts and figures needed to establish the best plan possible for the farmers and consumers of this province.

Mr. Gaunt: Mr. Speaker, I had originally been given 10 minutes in this debate but I'm slated to be through at 9:50, which gives me two minutes so I'll endeavour to wind up in that time in accordance with the agreement which we've entered into on all sides of the House.

This bill is no farm income plan; it's a straight subsidy programme masquerading as a legitimate farm income protection plan. To call this bill a form of farm income protection is to cast a blight on the name of the farm income protection programme.

I think it's been a good debate. We've had a little cut and thrust on all sides and I think the issues have been clearly set. The issue is the fact that the government has reneged on a programme to the farm community that was expected and needed.

It was needed for two reasons. The first reason is that the farm community in the last several years has undergone tremendous cost input pressures. The cost which farmers have to pay for their inputs today are substantially higher than they have ever been a tremendous escalation has taken place in the last two and three years.

For instance I give you one example, the example of farm machinery. A 130-horsepower tractor three years ago cost \$12,000, today it costs \$22,500; fertilizer, energy, the whole thing. Farmers are faced with tremendous costs and so it's put them on an entirely different price plateau than they've ever been on before. When the boom-bust cycle happens to be in the bust phase of the cycle, and farmers are faced with these tremendously high costs, it means they're right out of business in a very short time.

The other point is the imports. It's been touched on this afternoon. There's been very intensive pressure with respect to imports in the farm community these last few years. I'm not laying any blame at this point, I'm just saying it's a fact of life. There it is. And so those two factors have combined to create a great instability in the farm community.

The most needed thing in the farm community right now is stability, and in our view the only way that this can be achieved is through a farm income protection plan, a true farm income protection plan—not the bill which the minister has proposed, but a true farm income protection plan. I say that as far as we're concerned, the government has made a commitment to that plan, it's reneged on that plan, and what we're prepared to do and what the NDP is prepared to do, is simply say to the government we're postponing this bill; we're not defeating it, we're postponing it. We're sending it back to the

government. Let it take it back to its drawing board, come back with a good bill and we'll support it. That's our position and I hope that the government has sense enough to do just that.

Mr. Bullbrook: I'm going to take all of one moment because I'm not going to deal with the principle with respect to farm income stabilization, well enunciated by my colleagues of expertise. I want to ask, through you, a question that might be responded to by the minister; I'm very interested in this. Section 14 enshrines a new principle I believe, one that I want to adopt. It reads as follows: "The minister may, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, enter into agreements with the government of Canada to further the carrying out of the purpose and intent of this Act."

The question is, does this government believe that it requires legislative approval to enter into agreements with the government of Canada? If so, I certainly support that totally.

Mr. Deans: I'm going to be very brief because the time is growing short and we do want to get to the vote on the matter tonight. I want to say to you, Mr. Speaker, that this is a memorable evening in the Province of Ontario, particularly in the Legislature, because it's the first time that I can recall that we in the legislative chamber have ever honestly dealt with the problems of the farm community.

I can remember listening to the previous Minister of Agriculture and Food and others talking about farmers and telling us that we didn't understand them, and that they had all of the knowledge with regard to farming. I think that tonight, maybe for the first time, the Legislature has finally begun to assert itself as a sovereign body and to deal honestly and forthrightly with what it knows to be the major problems confronting a significant portion of the people in the province.

It's also important tonight—it's significant and memorable—because for the first time that I can recall a spokesman for the government has frontally attacked the president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. The member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton), as my leader so ably pointed out earlier, attacked personally—

Mr. Eaton: I didn't attack, I criticized.

Mr. Lewis: He personally abused.

Mr. Deans: —personally attacked and threatened the president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture—

Mr. Lewis: And his executive.

Mr. Deans: —during his discussion—

An hon. member: Shame.

Mr. Deans: —even to the extent of leaving the inference that he, having supported him in the early going, might not be able to do that now.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Same old socialist attack.

Mr. Deans: I think that it's time that the government of the Province of Ontario understood that those people who are—

Mr. Eaton: Point of order. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Eaton: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a point of order that I did not attack anyone—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Eaton: Also, I did not imply I would withdraw my membership at any time. I as a member have the right to criticize, as any member does—unlike, maybe, the people in the member's own organization, the NDP.

Mr. S. Smith: That was a point of disorder, Mr. Speaker:

Mr. Deans: Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that the member, of course, can interpret his remarks in whatever way he deems it most appropriate now, but I was here and I listened to him. I heard him say that at the time that the current president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture was seeking office, he had been one of those who had nominated him, but—but what, I'm not yet sure.

Mr. Eaton: I didn't say "but" at all.

Mr. Lewis: That was a reckless remark.

Mr. Deans: But anyway, let me go on and say that tonight the drift, as far as this government and agriculture are concerned, has ended. Tonight we're dealing, for the first time that I can recall at least, with the future of farmers and the farm community. We have established it, as it ought to have been established many years ago, as a priority matter for the Legislature.

We've heard many speeches made in this Legislature by any number of ministers and any number of members on this side about the need to preserve agricultural land, but we have never been able to tie that to the actuality of having to make sure that those people who farmed that land were able to

acquire for themselves and their families an income sufficient to allow them to live in the community that we have substantially created.

I represent a farming community to some extent. There are a goodly number of farmers who live in the riding that I represent, and they are from any number of different agricultural areas. They range all the way from beef and dairy products to the fruit belt produce. And I don't think that this government has ever fully understood the problems that confront the majority of those people living in the Niagara Peninsula.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Nonsense.

Mr. Deans: In fact, even the member for Brock, in spite of all his protestations, has rarely if ever got up on his feet and spoken about the needs of the farmers of the Niagara Peninsula.

Hon. Mr. Welch: That goes without saying.

Mr. MacDonald: Other than wines.

Mr. Nixon: Except in favour of imported grapes. That's the only time I remember.

Mr. Deans: Every time I rose in this House and attempted to put forward what were the obvious problems of those people farming and providing for the needs of all of us, it was hooted and hollered at by most of the government benches.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: Except for grapes—that's all the member for Brock is interested in.

Mr. Deans: Except for grapes; that's right. In fact, we even have a proposition before us again—

Mr. MacDonald: He is a political wino—that's what he is.

Mr. Deans: —to ensure that there will be some kind of grape concentrate made available, and perhaps to the detriment of the farmers in the area.

I have seen the kind of encroachment that takes place in the farm community. I've seen the kinds of pressures that are put on the farmers. They legitimately want to continue to farm and have a deeply felt and an obvious commitment to ensuring that the needs of the total community are met with regard to the farm. Yet this government has not ever, in my recollection, ever stated clearly where it stood—

Hon. Mr. Welch: Nonsense.

Mr. Deans: —with regard to the protection of the income for farmers; or for that matter, with regard to the protection of the farmlands themselves.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Nonsense.

Mr. MacDonald: He's right, you haven't. You have shown where you stood, and it is not the right place. It is not the right place. You are on the wrong side of the line.

Mr. Deans: Let me tell you when this—

Hon. W. Newman: Stop making political propaganda—lay it on the line.

Mr. Lewis: If you don't like it, dissolve the House and have your election. Go ahead.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let's get on with an orderly debate.

Mr. Deans: When this government brought in this totally inadequate piece of legislation, my colleague, the member for York South, said immediately that this didn't fit the bill. This wasn't what was needed in the Province of Ontario. This didn't even begin to address itself to the many problems confronting the farm community.

My colleague for York South stood up and he said immediately that this bill would have to be defeated or at least substantially amended. And we said to the government at the time: "Don't you think it would maybe be wiser in the overall picture for you to take the bill back and to bring in something much more acceptable, much more to fit the needs?"

We pointed out to the government that it wasn't only our opinion. It was also the opinion of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and it was the opinion of the farmers' union that there was a need for a much more comprehensive piece of legislation, one that would address itself to the real needs and not to the superficial needs that this government continually addresses itself to.

An hon. member: Withdraw it.

Mr. Deans: And so—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: —we were faced with an option. We could choose on the—

Hon. W. Newman: You don't want to go to committee and let the farmers talk about it.

Mr. Deans: —one hand to oppose this totally inadequate bill, to simply vote against it and to do away with it once and for all.

Or, as my colleague did, the member for Riverdale, we could sit down and we could design a reasoned amendment which would enable the government to save face, which would enable the Liberals to save face and which would provide for the people of the Province of Ontario and the farm community the kind of protection that they need.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: All the trained seals are clapping.

Mr. Deans: Let me tell you, we recognize—

Interjections.

Mr. Deans: —Mr. Speaker, that on balance this government deserves to be defeated on the bill. We recognize—

Hon. Mr. Welch: Never, never.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Never.

[10:00]

Mr. Deans: We recognize that in fact this was a matter of confidence; that this was a cornerstone of this government's policy. But, in keeping with the commitment we have to the Province of Ontario, we decided that on balance it would be better to offer the government yet another chance to bring in a piece of legislation that would be both additive and worthwhile, and so we did.

Mr. Mancini: That's posturing. That's all that is.

Mr. Deans: Let me say that the Liberal amendment, unnecessary though it is, is acceptable to us. That doesn't matter. When they finally move it, we're quite prepared to have it incorporated in our more reasoned and reasonable amendment. But that's beside the point. Let me tell you that what was moved by my colleague from York South is the essence of a proper farm income protection programme. If there is going to be farm income protection in this province then it has to be around the lines of the programme put forward by my colleague. I say to this government that tonight it'll be defeated on a cornerstone of its policy, and tomorrow when it moves its motion of confidence in the government it will be defeated again hopefully, because the Liberals may at last have found the guts to stand up.

If not, then I suppose the government will continue with inadequate legislation until at some point or other, it will decide to have an election.

An hon. member: You'll lose.

Mr. Deans: The point I'm going to make is that the government will never recover the confidence of the farm community because it has betrayed them, because it didn't talk to them, because it never understood them and because it doesn't care about them.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I not only rise to support this bill, but I rise to tell you that this is a good bill for the agricultural community in the Province of Ontario. It's quite obvious that the members opposite in both parties have really not understood this bill and have not really read it carefully. They talked about other matters and they wandered away from the bill into other matters. They don't fully understand this bill and what it's all about.

Hon. Mr. Welch: They just don't understand.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: I look at some of the people who have spoken tonight and I would like to make just a few comments. I made some before dinner but I'm better after dinner. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk stood up and indicated there should be one agency bargaining for the farmers in the province.

Mr. Lewis: Louder, louder.

Hon. W. Newman: I'd like him to clarify at some time in his speech. Where does he want to go? What does he believe in? Or what about the member for Windsor-Sandwich?

Mr. Kerrio: Answer the questions.

Hon. W. Newman: I'll answer your questions and every darn one, if you'll give me the time. The member for Windsor-Sandwich is thoroughly inconsistent. This great party over there wants low food prices for the consumer and high prices for the farmer. He can't have it both ways. Don't try to stand up and sell the public on that sort of rhetoric because they won't buy it.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: Nobody has more concern about the farmer than this party has. I don't want you to come into this place and say we don't support the farmers in this province. We have with many millions of

dollars over the years and many programmes for the farmers in this province.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: You stand up there with your rhetoric and you don't know what you're talking about.

Mr. Eakins: Did the Treasurer write your speech?

Mr. Davidson: You are really annoyed now.

Hon. W. Newman: I mean it sincerely that you don't know what you're talking about. I get a little bit annoyed. Sure I'll get louder.

Mr. Deans: Window-dressing.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, because of the time limitations on what I have to say tonight, I'll try to be brief, but I'll find it difficult. I believe the member for Essex North, that famous farmer and a very capable chap, said Russia took away incentive. What happened to the agricultural production in that country? I'm telling you this: If you follow the present route you want to follow in that party and in that party, you could kill the incentive of the agricultural community of this province, the backbone of this country.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: I say this in all sincerity, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: Yes, I get upset. I certainly do get upset when the leader of your party can stand up here and talk about the young farmers of this province and no future for them, when he doesn't know anything about what is happening in our agricultural schools, he doesn't know about what is happening to our students who are graduating.

Mr. Nixon: He made a great speech.

Mr. Bullbrook: The decibel level is unbelievable here.

Hon. W. Newman: Our agricultural schools are full and a vast majority of the students are going back to the farms and taking part in the family farm activity or getting their own farms going because of

the programmes in this province. There were 1,143 students this year, and well over 50 per cent went back to the farms! Don't tell me the young people aren't interested in farming and don't want to go back to it. They certainly do; the record stands on its own, the record stands on its own!

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: What's happened to the average during your 33 years?

Mr. Nixon: Why even you left the farm.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is getting a little bit silly.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, I am sure that the farming—

Interjections.

Mr. Bullbrook: Keep the decibel level down.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, I don't need any help from the back-benches, thank you very much.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the hon. members must realize the spectators who are here tonight from the farming communities and others who will read this will consider it is a pretty deplorable evening.

An hon. member: You are right.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member who just interjected is not helping things either.

Now let's finish this debate in a more orderly fashion. The hon. minister will continue, and please let's pay a little heed to these words. Thank you.

Hon. W. Newman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to comment on the remarks of the member for Timiskaming who talked about the industrial milk programme. I realize there are some problems with the industrial milk programme, not only federally but provincially and we are working on them. We have made certain announcements. It has nothing to do with this bill because milk is under supply management and comes under formula pricing.

I know you talk about wandering away from the various programmes. We did, but

you know it is sort of interesting to note tonight, and I won't go into any more detail than I have to, but I happen to believe—contrary to what you believe over there in the Liberal Party—that Mr. Whelan, the Hon. Eugene Whelan, is sincerely interested in the well-being of the agriculture community of this province and of this country.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. W. Newman: I tell you, when I hear you knocking him tonight in the House it bothers me. You used him in the last election, yes, you did.

Mr. Kerrio: So did you guys.

Mr. Ruston: And your party did, too.

Hon. W. Newman: I will tell you this, he is sincere in his concern for the well-being of the agricultural community of this province.

He may not be getting the support he wants of his government but I work with him—

Mr. MacDonald: His problem is the same as yours.

Hon. W. Newman: —trying to work out programmes to solve problems in this province.

I could talk about all the various members who have spoken tonight. I have to look at the member who seconded many resolutions or bills here today, the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini), who says I blame Ottawa. He well knows that had the bill been brought in at this point in time, thanks to Mr. Whelan some of their greenhouse developers in that area, who were helped out by Mr. Whelan, would have come under our bill. Let him not forget the fact that voting against this bill tonight will hurt him in his riding.

I could go on and talk about other members. I look at the member for Huron-Bruce who talked about imports being a problem. Yes, they are a problem; we will be meeting in Ottawa very shortly. We have set up a special committee to deal with that. Section 14 of the bill complements the federal Bill C-50 which allows us to move into it.

I am not going to go into any great detail on the individual members' comments except as I go through the points that were talked about this afternoon. I think some of the main points of the bill were missed this afternoon.

Let me emphasize once again a point that has been sidetracked in this debate; the government of Ontario has always said that if an income stabilization programme is to be fully effective it should be national in scope and should offer a meaningful level of support to as many farm products as possible. We still hold to that view.

We are not satisfied with the federal legislation passed almost a year ago. It doesn't go far enough to meet the needs of the agricultural community in Ontario. Ever since my appointment as Minister of Agriculture and Food, I have been trying to get its provisions widened and improved to meet our needs in the Province of Ontario. I am still trying and will continue to try as the days go by.

Meanwhile, a need exists that must be filled to strengthen the agricultural base of this province. Surely there is no better way to ensure that farmers will stay on their land producing food than to ensure that economic—

Mr. Conway: Read it carefully.

Hon. W. Newman: —pressures won't drive them off the land when the market for their products is depressed. We all know whose voices have been loudest in the discussion of ways to protect our food-producing capacity. We all know who decided this complex question could be stripped down and distorted to a few slick pages that might appeal to some urban voters, or to—

Mr. Renwick: Why don't you stick to your own bill?

Hon. Mr. Newman: I am speaking to my own bill because I wrote this myself.

Interjections.

Mr. Deans: Is that special?

Mr. Nixon: What do you keep Don Beeney around there for?

Hon. W. Newman: Now we have a plan—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. W. Newman: —to strengthen the farmer's ability to keep the farmer on his land. Now we see those self-same, self-proclaimed protectors of our farm land trying to deny farmers the opportunity even to speak in committee on our plan. The Leader of the—

Interjections.

Mr. Peterson: Be quiet, it's a very moving speech.

Hon. W. Newman: —Opposition has called the situation absurd, ludicrous and shameful. I call his attitude shameful. The Leader of the Opposition has conveniently ignored the fact that his party precipitated—

Mr. Nixon: You really reversed your position from the election.

Hon. W. Newman: —this sorry situation, but he cannot ignore the fact that his party decided to deny farm organizations the right to say what they think of our plan in the proper forum for discussion—

Mr. Lewis: We did? What did we do?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: —we have heard the NDP's bizarre explanation: It doesn't like our plan; it doesn't think the majority of farmers in this province like our plan, therefore it won't let farmers say why they don't like our plan and ask us to change it. Instead we are supposed to change that plan into an NDP plan, then the farmers will like it.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: And then the Legislature can go ahead with the discussion of an NDP plan, otherwise—no plan at all. That's what they are saying.

Mr. Renwick: We didn't say no plan at all.

Hon. W. Newman: That's socialistic logic. For all I know it may make sense to a socialist, but believe you me it won't make sense to the farmers in this province.

Interjections.

Mr. Davidson: You don't believe farmers are intelligent, eh?

Hon. W. Newman: We have also heard the Liberals' explanations in support of the NDP position. They carry even less conviction than the NDP statements, if that's possible. More correctly I should say we have heard explanations from some Liberal members. I notice that many Liberals have missed—

Mr. Nixon: I think you missed a line there.

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: I guess I missed the line that says they don't understand the rural people of this province.

At least I can understand the NDP members—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. W. Newman: —who hope to cause an election the voters don't want. The Liberal attitude puzzles me a great degree. Why would Liberal members, particularly those representing important agricultural areas, consider stifling discussion of this bill in committee? The government's not afraid of such discussion.

Mr. Nixon: Because you reversed your position. You backed down on your leader's promise.

Hon. W. Newman: We welcome that discussion. How could a member hope to explain to the farmers he represents that rather than let the stabilization plan take its knocks in committee he decided farmers should get no stabilization plan at all?

Mr. Davidson: Very easily. That's up to the minister.

Hon. W. Newman: We are not saying Bill 96 is perfect. We welcome constructive criticism, not the kind of stuff we've been hearing from those politicians who don't understand the kind of hard sense we would expect from farmers who would be affected by this bill. If we found the majority of those affected were opposed—

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: —to certain measures, does anyone here imagine that this minority government could afford to close its ears to their suggestions?

Mr. MacDonald: You have.

[10:15]

Hon. W. Newman: No, we haven't, you have. In the absence of a comprehensive national programme, we have brought in what I sincerely believe to be the best programme the province can afford at this time. It dovetails with the federal programme, so it won't disturb the national farm products structure, and yet it permits a higher degree of support in emergency situations than Ottawa is willing to offer.

Talking about going over 90 per cent and the cost of production figures, I will tell you something. It is very interesting to hear our friends opposite in the Liberal Party talking against the man they thought so highly of just a short time ago.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

An hon. member: Your friend, not ours.

Hon. W. Newman: And I want to quote from the federal agricultural estimates in Ottawa. Mr. Whelan said, "The provinces have not co-operated on the interdepartmental committee that was formed last year to come up with a national cow-calf plan."

Interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Whelan said, and I quote: "The provinces came and had meetings with us, went home and drafted their legislation and put it to their own Houses very rapidly. They put their own plans into force and then said, 'Bail us out, but under our conditions.'"

Mr. Reid: Time.

Hon. W. Newman: He said: "I do not call it consultation, I do not call it proper co-operation and development of a national plan."

Mr. Whelan concluded his remarks in this letter by saying: "I will deliver a cow-calf programme only when I get full co-operation, and when I can make sure it is a national programme."

I said that we believe in national programmes. Mr. Whelan knows it, and the government in Ottawa knows it, that the programmes that we brought forward are compatible with his programmes.

Mr. Mancini: What do we need you for?

Hon. W. Newman: It kind of bothers me when we talk about—

Mr. Peterson: Take a break, Bill; you must be very tired.

Hon. W. Newman: I am not going to take a break until I have told you all exactly where I think you stand. We talked about figures today, but our programme would cover 27 per cent of Ontario's farm products, twice the quantity the official NDP agricultural critic would have you believe. It would provide income protection for every Ontario producer who lacks it today. No farmer should ever have to consider giving up food production for another line of work simply because he doesn't have the financial resources to outlast a slump period.

Mr. Reid: You did, Bill; and it was a mistake.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. W. Newman: At the same time the plan would not interfere with the ability of the free market to find its own level.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Hear, hear.

Mr. S. Smith: You woke up the old Tory.

Hon. W. Newman: Today, for example, their main attack was soyabeans and their prices. Since May 1, Ontario growers' prices for soyabeans have increased by about \$1.75 a bushel. That's the sort of boom the farmers wait for. They will continue to reap the full benefit under our plan. They know it will last. Prices will fall again, but with income stabilization protection they can say with confidence, "Only so low, and no lower." They can continue planning for the future without fears; knowing the minimum income to expect from their product. It is highly unlikely that all the commodities covered under Bill 96 would suffer serious market downturns at the same time.

Mr. Conway: What about fertilizers?

Hon. W. Newman: We hope the fund would build up in the favourable years to become self-sufficient, but we have promised to provide as much money as the fund might require at any time.

I would like to go on and talk about that; but I won't, because we don't have time. But I would like to give some estimated costs of farm income stabilization to the Ontario government. We could be paying out for apples in this present year approximately \$5.8 million to the apple producers of this province—and those members stand up and deny the programme. Go back and tell the apple producers that.

An hon. member: Your heart is on the other side, Bill.

Hon. W. Newman: Go back and tell the apple producers that.

Mr. Peterson: Don't point your finger; look what happened to Rhodes.

Hon. W. Newman: As I said before, we don't claim this is a perfect plan. If we found a majority of producers affected wanted changes in this provision—

Mr. Riddell: What was your promise?

Hon. W. Newman: —we would consider changing them. But we most emphatically will not change the principle of our free enterprise plan, to embrace the socialist principles of the NDP scheme. On that point of principle we are immovable.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Reid: The cameras are going off in a minute.

Hon. W. Newman: Even the NDP can't be so naive about agriculture as to think we didn't consider the possibilities of plans such as they proposed. Of course, we studied it, and in detail—then we rejected it.

The flowerpot farmers of the NDP talk of covering the producers' full cost of production, plus a return on his investment, management and labour. They seem to think they can tell a farmer, "Go ahead, you can't lose"—and somehow avoid the only consequence of such an incentive; over-production that would flood the market with surpluses.

Mr. Davidson: Did you write this, Bill? Did you rehearse this?

Hon. W. Newman: If the official opposition had even one real farmer sitting in this House—

Mr. Reid: Did you rehearse this? You're not doing badly.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. W. Newman: —maybe he could make them understand the levels of productivity that Ontario's efficient farmers could achieve with an incentive like that. Maybe one honest-to-God farmer among the theorists could explain the havoc that would be created for them in the marketplace. Maybe he could show them what happened when the federal government underestimated the dairy farmers' enormous capacity to produce and why in two years they have moved from undersupply to a situation where Canada has millions of dollars' worth of surplus dairy products sitting in warehouses. The only way out of the dilemma would be to impose government production controls on Ontario farmers, who don't want and don't need production controls. The idea is as repugnant to a free-enterprise government as it is to Ontario's free-enterprise farmers.

We all heard much from the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk about his desire—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. W. Newman: —that the stabilization programme be voluntary. I can only point out to him when incentive pricing results in production controls, those production controls surely will not be voluntary. Production controls must be compulsory if they are to work at all.

An hon. member: Time.

Hon. W. Newman: No, we are not out of time.

Mr. Peterson: Was that in your speech, Bill, or did you make that up all on your own?

Hon. W. Newman: Right now they're growing corn on more than two million acres in this province. They're getting 70 per cent more corn from every acre than their fathers did 40 years ago.

Mr. Reid: We're getting a lot of fertilizer out of this speech.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. W. Newman: Can anyone seriously imagine this government telling our corn growers, "Okay, we are going to do you a favour through a new stabilization bill. We're going to tell you, from now on you can grow only so much corn in Ontario, even though the farmers in Quebec can grow and sell as much as they like"? Can anyone seriously consider—

An hon. member: Time.

Mr. Wildman: You are giving us enough corn to last this year.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We are wasting time with interjections.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I happen to believe that the vast majority of the agricultural community neither want nor expect any government to cover their full costs of production and guarantee them a profit. All they want is a helping hand when times get tough through no fault of their own.

Mr. Nixon: Just a little bit of help.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There seems to be an indication that there was a time limit on this debate, and I believe it must have expired. Perhaps the hon. minister would bring his remarks to a close.

Mr. Nixon: That is what we understood.

Mr. Singer: Let him file the rest of his remarks.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I understand I have two minutes left. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Welch: That's right, two minutes.

Hon. W. Newman: All the farmers want is a helping hand—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We can't hear the hon. minister.

Hon. W. Newman: —when times get tough through no fault of their own—and I don't think they'd even want it if they thought our offer came straight from taxes.

Mr. S. Smith: Keep your word.

Hon. W. Newman: Standing order 41 of this House provides that no motion or amendment, the subject matter of which has been decided upon, can again be proposed during the same session. Do the hon. members opposite realize what that means to the farmers of this province?

Mr. Singer: What does that mean?

Hon. W. Newman: There is no excuse whatsoever for turning the perfectly straightforward democratic procedures of this House into the farce that we have witnessed tonight.

Mr. Breithaupt: Speak for yourself.

Hon. W. Newman: And just as there is no excuse, there is no reason for this farce other than sheer political expediency.

Mr. Roy: The only farce is you.

Hon. W. Newman: Bill 96 should have received first and second readings and gone before the standing committee on resources development for third reading.

Mr. R. S. Smith: You said it shouldn't go there. You said in the House it shouldn't go there. You changed your mind.

Hon. W. Newman: That is the stage where the opposition should have done its clowning. We might have been more inclined to excuse it in committee because the farmers of Ontario would have had their chance there to say what they think of the bill. We would have heard some common sense instead of political posturing, and we would have heard it from the farmers who would be affected by the bill.

Mr. Reid: This speech would be more effective if you weren't reading it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Hon. W. Newman: That would be the normal path for the bill to follow. Third reading would move us ahead to square three. Instead we've been shoved back to square one. Indeed, we've been shoved back past square one, because this government is being asked

to consider in debate a form of farm income protection that we considered and debated long ago and rejected long ago.

Mr. Reid: That is where the speech writer went that the Premier fired.

Hon. W. Newman: We have been forced back to square one by political charades, that will make the proceedings of this House the laughingstock of Canada. I think those on the other side of the House know, as well as I do, that the farmers of Ontario won't be laughing. They will be disgusted.

Mr. Conway: He did write this speech.

Hon. W. Newman: They will know they will be denied any hope of an Ontario farm income stabilization programme this year.

An hon. member. Time.

Mr. Singer: Is that square three or square four?

Hon. W. Newman: And make no mistake about it, they'll know whom to blame.

Mr. Makarchuk: Give me liberty or give me death!

Hon. W. Newman: Yes, the hon. members opposite don't want to hear any more because they don't want to hear the truth. They just come ploughing in.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please. Ready for the question?

Hon. W. Newman had moved second reading of Bill 96. Mr. MacDonald had moved an amendment that the bill be not now read a second time but be referred back to the government to have incorporated therein the principles of a farm income insurance plan which should be open to the producers of all farm products on a voluntary basis with assurance that the government provide a public forum for full discussion with the farm community before reintroduction of the bill.

The first question which must be decided is, shall the bill be now read a second time?

All those in favour of Bill 96 being now read a second time will please say "aye."

Those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the "nays" have it.

[10:42]

The House divided on the motion by Hon. W. Newman for second reading of Bill 96, which was negatived on the following vote:

AYES	NAYS	NAYS
Auld	Angus	Sandeman
Belanger	Bain	Singer
Bennett	Bounsall	Smith
Bernier	Breithaupt	(Nipissing)
Birch	Bryden	Smith
Brunelle	Bullbrook	(Hamilton West)
Davis	Burr	Spence
Drea	Campbell	Stong
Eaton	Cassidy	Swart
Evans	Conway	Warner
Gregory	Cunningham	Wildman
Grossman	Davidson	Worton
Handleman	(Cambridge)	Young
Henderson	Davison	Ziemba—66.
Hodgson	(Hamilton Centre)	
Irvine	Deans	
Johnson	Di Santo	
(Wellington-	Dukszta	
Dufferin-Peel)	Eakins	
Johnston	Edighoffer	
(St. Catharines)	Ferrier	
Jones	Ferris	
Kennedy	Foulds	
Kerr	Gaunt	
Lane	Germa	
Leluk	Gigantes	
MacBeth	Givens	
Maeck	Godfrey	
McCague	Grande	
McKeough	Haggerty	
McMurtry	Hall	
Meen	Kerrio	
Miller	Laughren	
(Muskoka)	Lawlor	
Morrow	Lewis	
Newman	Lupusella	
(Durham York)	MacDonald	
Norton	Mackenzie	
Parrott	Makarchuk	
Rhodes	Mancini	
Scrivener	Martel	
Snow	McClellan	
Stephenson	McKessock	
Taylor	Miller	
Timbrell	(Haldimand-Norfolk)	
Villeneuve	Moffatt	
Welch	Newman	
Wells	(Windsor-	
Williams	Walkerville)	
Wiseman—45.	Nixon	
	O'Neil	
	Peterson	
	Philip	
	Reed	
	(Halton-Burlington)	
	Reid	
	(Rainy River)	
	Renwick	
	Riddell	
	Roy	
	Ruston	

Clerk of the House: Mr. Speaker, the "ayes" are 45, the "nays" are 66.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let's get on with the business of the House. I declare the motion lost.

The question which must now be put, is whether the bill be referred back to the government to have incorporated therein the principles of a farm income insurance plan which will be open to the producers of all farm products on a voluntary basis, with assurance that the government provide a public forum for full discussion with the farm community before re-introduction of the bill.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule 46(b) of the standing orders, and for reasons which have been clearly outlined by myself and my caucus colleagues, I have a motion at this time.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Riddell moves that the reasoned amendment be further amended by substituting the word "protection" for the word "insurance" in the fourth line, and the following words be added after the word "voluntary" in the fifth line: "and contributory basis with the government negotiating with legally constituted farm spokesmen"; and the following words be added after the word "bill" in line seven: "that the bill be re-introduced no later than Oct. 31, 1976."

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, with that, the reasoned amendment, as amended, will read as follows:

That Bill 96, An Act respecting farm income stabilization, be not now read a second time but be referred back to the government to have incorporated therein principles of a farm income protection plan which will be open to the producers of all farm products on a voluntary and contributory basis, with the government negotiating with legally constituted farm spokesmen; and with assurance that the

government provide a public forum for full discussion with the farm community before re-introduction of the bill; and that the bill be re-introduced no later than Oct. 31, 1976.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We'll vote first of all on the—

Mr. Lewis: No, no, just a second; there is a subamendment.

Mr. Speaker: That's right.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to make a brief comment. We have no difficulty in this party in accepting the subamendment. The first two sections of it are different wordings that reflect exactly the meaning that we had in mind, and if it wasn't clear in the words in the amendment, it was certainly clear in what we said this afternoon.

The third amendment is a substantive change and we have no objection to it. It puts a deadline by which this government has to respond to the House, and I trust they will do so. In fact so much do we agree with the amendment we'd be glad to incorporate it and vote on it in the amended form.

Mr. Speaker: Do other hon. members wish to speak to this subamendment?

Mr. Singer: Why doesn't the Minister of Agriculture and Food make it unanimous?

An hon. member: Come on.

An hon. member: Make it unanimous.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. S. Smith: Make minority government work.

Mr. Speaker: I thought the debate was over.

Mr. Lewis: This is a pretty exciting moment; give us a bit of leeway.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Those in favour of Mr. Riddell's amendment to the amendment will please say "aye."

Those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the "ayes" have it.

Mr. Lewis: No, we want the whole recorded vote; this will not happen again.

The House divided on Mr. Riddell's amendment to the amendment, which was approved on the following vote:

AYES

Angus
Bain
Bounsall
Breithaupt
Bryden
Bullbrook
Burr
Campbell
Cassidy
Conway
Cunningham
Davidson
(Cambridge)
Davison
(Hamilton Centre)
Deans
Di Santo
Dukszta
Eakins
Edighoffer
Ferrier
Ferris
Foulds
Gaunt
Germa
Gigantes
Givens
Godfrey
Grande
Haggerty
Hall
Kerrio
Laughren
Lawlor
Lewis
Lupusella
MacDonald
Mackenzie
Makarchuk
Mancini
Martel
McClellan
McKessock
Miller
(Haldimand-Norfolk)
Moffatt
Newman
(Windsor-
Walkerville)
Nixon
O'Neil
Peterson
Philip
Reed
(Halton-Burlington)
Reid
(Rainy River)
Renwick
Riddell
Roy

NAYS

Auld
Belanger
Bennett
Bernier
Birch
Brunelle
Davis
Drea
Eaton
Evans
Gregory
Grossman
Handleman
Henderson
Hodgson
Irvine
Johnson
(Wellington-Dufferin-
Peel)
Johnston
(St. Catharines)
Jones
Kennedy
Kerr
Lane
Leluk
MacBeth
Maeck
McCague
McKeough
McMurtry
Meen
Miller
(Muskoka)
Morrow
Newman
(Durham-York)
Norton
Parrott
Rhodes
Scrivener
Snow
Stephenson
Taylor
Timbrell
Villeneuve
Welch
Wells
Williams
Wiseman—45.

AYES

Ruston
Sandeman
Singer
Smith
(Nipissing)
Smith
(Hamilton West)
Spence
Stong
Swart
Warner
Wildman
Worton
Young
Ziemba—66.

Clerk of the House: The “ayes” are 66, and the “nays” are 45.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the subamendment to the amendment carried.

We will now put the main amendment, as moved by Mr. MacDonald, as amended by Mr. Riddell.

Those in favour of the amendment as amended will please say “aye.”

Those opposed will please say “nay.”

In my opinion, the “ayes” have it.

Mr. Lewis: No, we want the vote recorded.

Mr. Speaker: May we have the same vote as before?

Mr. Lewis: We want this in Hansard.

[11:00]

Mr. Speaker: All right, we will place the question, then.

The House divided on the amendment as amended, which was approved on the following vote:

AYES

Angus
Bain
Bounsall
Breithaupt
Bryden
Bullbrook
Burr
Campbell
Cassidy
Conway
Cunningham
Davidson
(Cambridge)
Davison
(Hamilton Centre)

NAYS

Auld
Belanger
Bennett
Bernier
Birch
Brunelle
Davis
Drea
Eaton
Evans
Gregory
Grossman
Handleman
Henderson
Hodgson

AYES

Deans
Di Santo
Dukszta
Eakins
Edighoffer
Ferrier
Ferris
Foulds
Gaunt
Germa
Gigantes
Givens
Godfrey
Grande
Haggerty
Hall
Kerrio
Laughren
Lawlor
Lewis
Lupusella
MacDonald
Mackenzie
Makarchuk
Mancini
Martel
McClellan
McKessock
Miller
(Haldimand-Norfolk)
Moffatt
Newman
(Windsor-Walkerville)
Nixon
O'Neil
Peterson
Philip
Reed
(Halton-Burlington)
Reid
(Rainy River)
Renwick
Riddell
Roy
Ruston
Sandeman
Singer
Smith
(Nipissing)
Smith
(Hamilton West)
Spence
Stong
Swart
Warner
Wildman
Worton
Young
Ziemba—66.

NAYS

Irvine
Johnson
(Wellington)
Dufferin-Peel)
Johnston
(St. Catharines)
Jones
Kennedy
Kerr
Lane
Leluk
MacBeth
Maeck
McCague
McKeough
McMurtry
Meen
Miller
(Muskoka)
Morrow
Newman
(Durham York)
Norton
Parrott
Rhodes
Scrivener
Snow
Stephenson
Taylor
Timbrell
Villeneuve
Welch
Wells
Williams
Wiseman—45.

Clerk of the House: Mr. Speaker, the "ayes" are 66, the "nays" are 45.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I declare the amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Is there an announcement from the House leader?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I know there are other matters to be discussed before adjournment. June 15, 1976, will no doubt be a matter of some interest for historians some time from now. Therefore, tomorrow we will take into consideration government notice of motion No. 4 standing in the name of the Premier (Mr. Davis), and tomorrow evening—of course, it's conditional on the outcome of the vote at 5:50 tomorrow—we will then go to legislation.

Mr. Lewis: Could be the same vote.

Mr. Martel: Then go to an election.

Mr. Lewis: Certainly this House has no confidence in the government tonight.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. As announced earlier this afternoon, the member for Windsor-Riverside had given notice that he was dissatisfied with the answer given by the Minister of Agriculture and Food on June 10 concerning the effect of fluorescent light on milk products.

I now deem a motion to adjourn the House to have been placed and I'll call on the member for Windsor-Riverside who, in five minutes, may outline his position.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure my colleague would wish to go ahead, but the government having lost the confidence of the House I'm not sure that intervening business should proceed. But I take it you would permit the late show.

Mr. Speaker: I've already called the late show because the Speaker deems a motion to adjourn to have been carried with no other intervening business. I have called on the member for Windsor-Riverside.

EFFECT OF FLUORESCENT LIGHTING ON FOOD

Mr. Burr: Mr. Speaker, on Dec. 17, 1975, various newspapers, including the Toronto Star and the Globe and Mail, carried news stories revealing that University of Guelph researchers in the food science department had some disturbing news. The researchers

reported that fluorescent lighting in supermarket displays detracts both from the flavour and from the nutritional value of milk, butter, cheese, cooking oil and related products.

After three hours of exposure to direct fluorescent lighting, the flavour of milk changes, if it is contained in clear pouches or in plastic jugs, when subjected to a light intensity of 200 feet-candles. Dr. de Mann is convinced that much resistance to the drinking of milk originates when people get this off-flavoured milk.

About 90 per cent of the vitamin C or ascorbic acid content is lost after 24 hours' exposure if milk is stored in clear pouches or in plastic jugs. About 33 per cent is lost if milk is contained in standard cardboard containers. Only about 20 per cent is lost if an opaque pouch is used. The opaque plastic pouch has an outer white layer and an inner black pigmented layer.

Vitamin B losses are less severe than those of ascorbic acid, but after 24 hours' exposure, at 200 foot-candles, almost 30 per cent of the vitamin B is lost from milk in a clear pouch and the opaque pouch permits virtually no loss. There is a loss of about 10 per cent of vitamin B from cartons and plastic jugs. In view of the results of the federal government's recent nutritional survey, this nutritional loss to the people of the province, especially to children, should be a matter of great concern to this government.

Unfortunately, the whole government has shown almost no concern. I raised this question first on March 16, asking what the Minister of Agriculture and Food was doing to insist upon light-protective packaging for these food products. On April 5, April 9 and May 4, I asked various ministers without much success. On June 4 and June 8, I appealed to the Premier. Eventually, on June 10, the Minister of Agriculture and Food gave a four-page statement which told me nothing I did not already know. As far as government action on this problem is concerned, his answer was, in effect, that:

The concerned consumer who wants maximum nutritional value would be well advised to buy fresh milk which is displayed in a cold and dark storage area.

Doesn't the minister realize that there may be many concerned consumers who don't know that Ontario's Minister of Agriculture and Food actually allows milk, butter, etc., to be sold in inadequate packages. I should be surprised if 10 per cent of shoppers have any idea that fluorescent lighting can have a harmful effect on dairy products. Even the

Premier tells us that he buys his milk in three-quart plastic jugs, despite the fact that plastic jugs are the worst possible packaging for milk, according to Dr. John de Mann, who has been doing research for the government on this for at least three years.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Are you against returnable jugs?

Mr. Burr: If the Premier, who has sat in this House and heard me raise the matter on several occasions, chooses the worst possible packaging from a nutritional standpoint, how can the Minister of Agriculture and Food slough off this matter by saying—and I quote again:

The concerned consumer who wants maximum nutritional value would be well advised to buy fresh milk which is displayed in a cold and dark storage area.

The minister, in his June 10 answer, admitted that:

there is adequate technology now available to prevent any impairment of milk quality from exposure to light.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's time has expired.

Mr. Burr: His own ministry funded the study proving this, which was published in 1973—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's time has expired.

Mr. Burr: Why has he done nothing to introduce this technology? His ministry has known for three years that opaque plastic pouches and black cardboard cartons can deliver milk to consumers—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Thank you.

Mr. Burr: —with virtually no loss of flavour and virtually no loss of nutritional value.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) has had a long and busy day, he has asked me to make a few remarks regarding the hon. member's motion this evening. First of all, I want to say that I don't feel that there is any reason for the hon. member for Windsor-Riverside to exercise the rules of this House. I feel that his question was adequately answered by the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Food last week. He should have been completely satisfied with it. However, I will just comment on a couple of points.

First of all, we have indicated that there is a problem when milk is displayed in a certain way in certain stores; if there is fluorescent lighting in a container whereby all types of milk is stored, there could be loss of nutritional value and it might develop some type of an "off" flavour. But I think that it is important to realize that not all milk is bought in stores; some of it is delivered to the home.

At this point I would like to take issue with the hon. member in respect to his reference to the three-quart returnable jug. I still feel that the three-quart jug is a preferable method of the sale of milk, particularly from the point of view that most milk, as the hon. member knows, is sold by way of door-to-door delivery in the various communities in this province and therefore is not subject to the problem of fluorescent lighting. I am also of course, referring to the whole matter of recycling three-quart jugs, which is an important part of the sale and distribution of milk to the various homes in the province.

Now what does the hon. member suggest? Does the hon. member suggest that we should have an army of inspectors to go around to the various grocery stores and tell the store owners that their milk is not displayed in a proper manner? Should we recommend specific type of packaging?

Mr. Burr: Right, now the minister has got it.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Now, all right. Is there any particular reason why we couldn't paint those three-quart jugs black? Would that satisfy the hon. member?

Mr. Burr: Fine, great.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: All right. As the hon. member probably realizes, the milk producers just a few years ago attempted this because of criticism in respect to fluorescent lighting and the loss of nutritional value in milk. The milk just didn't sell. The three-quart black plastic jug was not attractive. It didn't sell. One milk producer went broke; he went bankrupt. So we have to leave something up to consumer choice. I think there is a duty on the government, on the milk board, on the Minister of Agriculture and Food, to point out the things that the hon. member has pointed out—

Mr. Burr: Right.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —and we confirmed those in our answer, so that the consumer can be educated to purchase milk in safe packaging to make sure that he has the best quality of milk. But I don't think that we should dictate the type of packaging, because if we do

that we are going to defeat my objective to promote the three-quart jug for one thing, and we don't want to do that. The other thing is there should be some consumer choice.

As the member knows, the best and probably safest and most convenient packaging really in many respects is the old milk bottle, but people don't buy milk in bottles these days. We could paint that bottle black and we wouldn't lose any nutrition but, again, a black milk bottle wouldn't sell—take it from me. I used to run a Freshie stand and I went broke because the Freshie was in a black jug.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Durham East indicated his displeasure with the answer to a question about the Oshawa Second Marsh and Darlington Provincial Park as given by the Minister of Natural Resources and I will call on the member for Durham East for five minutes.

Mr. Moffatt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know what to say after the last show, but I have some very grave concerns with regard—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Would you make it three minutes?

Mr. Moffatt: I will try, okay? If the minister will give me the right answers, I will be glad to.

ACCESS TO OSHAWA MARSH

Mr. Moffatt: The question I asked the minister the last day arose out of a phone call I received from a person who had attended the Federation of Ontario Naturalists convention the previous weekend. He was most concerned because there was a report at that particular convention that the government had decided to, in consultation with a few people, approve a rezoning to the Beaton farm in the Oshawa area which would impinge seriously on the future of the Second Marsh.

My reason for being so concerned? I am sure that those members who have driven east on Highway 401 past Oshawa have noticed on the lakeshore the particularly scenic and picturesque area which I am talking about; two bays separated by a particularly attractive farm. What this particular move would do would be to make that farm into some sort of chemical industrial park, because we are not really sure what is going to happen there. I don't see how this can happen, in the light of the previous commitments which the minister and the government have given in response to a number of questions

that they will protect the integrity of the Second Marsh at Oshawa at all costs and because of a previous commitment which they had given which would expand the Darlington Provincial Park. The only place they can expand the Darlington Provincial Park is westward into what is known as the Beaton Farm.

[11:15]

If the government is not prepared to do that, I would ask the minister to read from this particular report, the Ontario Provincial Parks Council, 1975, first annual report, which says in regard to the need for new urban provincial parks:

(a) Frequently there is insufficient parkland of any type near urban areas.

(b) Land that is close to urban areas is expensive which often make it difficult for a local municipality to acquire quality areas of large size.

(c) Many disadvantaged urban residents have little opportunity to go into provincial parks.

There are five specific reasons given in this report to the minister which clearly demonstrate the need for this kind of facility in such an urban area.

Given the comments of the Treasurer in the Durham sub-region report which has been published all over the province and tabled in this House, which sees the population in the Oshawa area going to 450,000 in the next 10 years, where, I ask the minister, will we have the kind of park facilities that is called for in this report? I'm not saying that the minister should immediately call a halt to everything that is going on. What he can do, if he will continue this discussion, is two or three things.

If the ministry is going to do anything with the Beaton farm, other than add it to the Darlington Provincial Park, then, for heaven's sake, leave it as a farm. I ask the minister specifically to assure us that Second Marsh will be protected from all encroachment. In the case of the particular chemical company which is rumoured to be investigating potential sites in the Durham region, there are numerous areas which could be used for this type of firm which would add to the credibility of the reports that the government has been giving out about regional governments and would, in fact, help the industrial assessment base in that area which the government has a commitment to undertake. All I'm saying is that to choose that particularly inappropriate site at this time is all wrong. I see no reason at all why the min-

ister cannot give some assurance now that that will not happen.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, if I may elaborate further on the hon. member's question asked of me this afternoon, I think that the easiest and the most forward way to place our position on the record is to go through the various stages of development and the various stages of the events that have occurred since the summer of 1973.

At that time, there was an agreement to extend the Darlington Provincial Park to portions including the Beaton farm and the Second Marsh. During 1974-1975, negotiations for acquisition of the Beaton farm broke off because of budget constraints and withdrawal of the provincial parks acquisition fund. On June 27, 1975, the Minister of Housing partially approved the new Oshawa official plan. He referred certain parts of that plan to the OMB, specifically the Second Marsh property of the Oshawa Harbour Commission and the Beaton farm property.

The Ministry of Natural Resources will make representations to the OMB that the Second Marsh be designated as conservation land—I believe that's what the hon. member would like to hear—as well as that portion of the Beaton farm adjacent to the Second Marsh, Darlington Provincial Park, and the fronting of Lake Ontario and McLaughlin Bay. Our present interest is in designating or acquiring that part of the Beaton farm property necessary to maintain the integrity of the Darlington Provincial Park and the Second Marsh.

Our aim is also to acquire the Second Marsh or to attempt to ensure its designation as conservation land. The owners, the Oshawa Harbour Commission, however, appear to be intent on creating a new harbour in the marsh. We believe this is unnecessary and, if any expansion of harbour facilities is required, it can be better achieved by creating an outer harbour for which we have already provided, or will provide, the necessary water lots. I believe that, once the member has an opportunity to review those comments in Hansard, he will satisfy himself of the direction we're going.

Mr. Speaker: I will call on the hon. member for Grey who wishes to debate a matter of the answer as given by the Minister of Labour.

CLOSURE OF ARENAS

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, I know I have only five minutes, so I won't waste any time in letting you know that I think closing

of some of the 66 arenas throughout Ontario is a mistake by the Ministry of Labour.

I personally inspected an arena myself on Friday, June 11, after many concerned people had contacted me and forwarded me their engineer's report. I found the arena in excellent shape. I wish the building was sitting on my farm. I would feel confident that I would have a building that would be in good shape for at least another 20 years.

In the engineer's report, it mentioned that posts had shifted outward on the cement abutments in some places, the maximum being 1½ ins. This was found to be true, but anybody who has worked with wooden structures in the last 100 years knows this is a natural event. A little settling and shifting of a wooden structure is common and does nothing to make the building any less capable of withstanding the natural elements of nature.

Mr. Ruston: My house moves every spring.

Mr. McKessock: I have worked around large buildings all my life and I have even built a few. My experience and deliberations have not been with a computer, which the engineering firm uses to help them decide if a building is sound.

The engineers may be right in condemning the arenas under the new building code standards. If so, the standards are not right for our area, and I criticize the engineering firms for not suggesting in their report that the standards may well be too rigid for this area.

Would the minister agree that there was no other position for the engineering firms to take to protect themselves sufficiently? This way they are safe, no matter what the condition of the arena.

The building standards must be based on the wind and snow load in the area over the last number of years, with a certain amount added for a safety factor. If the minister wants to create a new building code with a greater safety factor for new structures being built, that would be fine with me. But why condemn an arena that has proved itself over a number of years as being structurally sound? If the arena shows visual signs of rot or some other deterioration, okay; but a lot of these arenas do not show this, they are sound. I would be willing to live in some of these arenas for the next 20 years and feel perfectly safe.

Would the minister agree to have yearly inspections for two years and keep a record of the extent of further deterioration, if any? The minister may find at the end of two

years that inspections could be carried out every other year, if deterioration is minimal.

This once-in-a-lifetime inspection that has just been completed seems ridiculous. Nobody knows whether any deterioration found occurred the first year after construction or last year. Any shift or settling could well have taken place in the first two or three years after construction. Any further movement in the building is highly unlikely. Yearly inspections would determine this.

For an arena to be standing sound, and doing a good job, and then have an engineering firm move in and condemn it on one inspection lacks wisdom and common sense. Several inspections should be done and records kept at yearly intervals to establish whether the building is deteriorating further, and how much. Let us leave these arenas open, check them again next year and compare inspections.

One of the first questions the minister will ask me is would I be willing to be held responsible if we leave the arenas open and something happens. My answer is, yes; I would be for the arenas in my area, for a three-year period until a routine inspection process was established by her ministry and was in full operation.

A new building code does not make an old building unsafe. A new building built under the new code might be stronger, but not necessarily any better. Safe is safe; if our winters and hurricanes were increasing or becoming more destructive, the minister might have a leg to stand on, but they are not.

Mr. Speaker: The hon member's time has expired.

Mr. McKessock: Has the minister inspected any of these arenas herself? How can she close these arenas without a personal inspection of them when there is so much doubt?

I extend to the minister a personal invitation to come with me to inspect some of these arenas as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I have never heard such a cavalier attitude toward public safety in all my life. These arenas have in fact been inspected by qualified engineers at the request of the municipalities.—

Mr. McKessock: At the request of the municipalities?

Hon. B. Stephenson: —because the Ministry of Labour in conjunction with the ex-

perts in building and the National Association of Professional Engineers, decided in 1970 and 1971 that this kind of programme was necessary as a result of five collapses of arenas, two with loss of life.

If the hon. member wants to take full responsibility for the lives of the children and the adults in his area, who might use this arena that he deems to be safe, then by all means let him take the responsibility. The Ministry of Labour and the government of the Province of Ontario has much more concern about the safety of the people of this province than apparently the member has.

This programme, as I said, was established more than five years ago. We have requested of all the municipalities on a yearly basis—

Mr. McKessock: At the request of the municipalities.

Hon. B. Stephenson: —that they engage an engineering firm to inspect these buildings to ensure their safety.

The municipalities were reluctant to comply with our request, in spite of repeated urgings. I have stated in the House that it was at the suggestion of the PMLC that I sent the letters to the municipalities in December, because the municipalities themselves felt that this programme had to be advanced much more rapidly than it had in the past.

Some of the municipalities in this province, I would like the members to know, responded earlier to our requests. They did have their arenas inspected. They did, in fact, improve those arenas and they are now safe to be used.

We have not closed 66—we have closed 57 at the moment. Some of those will, in fact, be fit to be reopened in October if they are properly structurally supported during the summer months.

But there are some which are going to have to be demolished, because they simply cannot withstand the stress of the dead-weight, the snow load and the wind factors which they must meet.

These are not new factors and not new stresses. These are conditions which were established in 1971, and we have been trying for the last five years to persuade those people who should be responsible for the safety of the people in their area to assume this responsibility.

If they don't want to assume it, this government will assume it, and we will make sure that unsafe arenas are closed. I really

cannot understand the mentality which would permit anyone to say that we should put off for three or five years ensuring the safety of arenas in this province in making sure that the children of this province are safe.

Mr. McKessock: Thanks for the use of them for the last five years.

Mr. Speaker: I deem the motion to adjourn to have been carried.

The House adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

ERRATUM

No.	Page	Col.	Line	Should read:
82	3248	2	40	Mr. Deans: I said the majority. If the hon.

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SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

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 Bernier, Hon. L.; Minister of Natural Resources (Kenora PC)
 Bounsall, E. J. (Windsor-Sandwich NDP)
 Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L)
 Bullbrook, J. E. (Sarnia L)
 Burr, F. A. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Conway, S. (Renfrew North L)
 Davidson, M. (Cambridge NDP)
 Deans, I. (Wentworth NDP)
 Eakins, J. (Victoria-Haliburton L)
 Eaton, R. G. (Middlesex PC)
 Evans, D. A. (Simcoe Centre PC)
 Ferrier, W.; Acting Speaker (Cochrane South NDP)
 Gaunt, M. (Huron-Bruce L)
 Gregory, M. E. C. (Mississauga East PC)
 Handleman, Hon. S. B.; Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Carleton PC)
 Henderson, Hon. L. C.; Minister without Portfolio (Lambton PC)
 Johnson, J. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)
 Kerr, Hon. G. A.; Minister of the Environment (Burlington South PC)
 Kerrio, V. (Niagara Falls L)
 Lewis, S.; Leader of the Opposition (Scarborough West NDP)
 MacDonald, D. C. (York South NDP)
 Mackenzie, R. (Hamilton East NDP)
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 Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
 Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
 McCague, G. (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)
 McKeough, Hon. W. D.; Treasurer, Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs
 (Chatham-Kent PC)
 McKessock, R. (Grey L)
 Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)
 Moffatt, D. (Durham East NDP)
 Newman, Hon. W.; Minister of Agriculture and Food (Durham-York PC)
 Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
 Peterson, D. (London Centre L)
 Reed, J. (Halton-Burlington L)
 Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L)

Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)
Rhodes, Hon. J. R.; Minister of Housing (Sault Ste. Marie PC)
Riddell, J. (Huron-Middlesex L)
Rowe, Hon. R. D.; Speaker (Northumberland PC)
Roy, A. J. (Ottawa East L)
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Snow, Hon. J. W.; Minister of Transportation and Communications (Oakville PC)
Spence, J. P. (Kent-Elgin L)
Stephenson, Hon. B.; Minister of Labour (York Mills PC)
Stokes, J. E.; Deputy Speaker (Lake Nipigon NDP)
Swart, M. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Villeneuve, O. F. (Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry PC)
Warner, D. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)
Welch, Hon. R.; Minister of Culture and Recreation (Brock PC)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)
Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC)

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Afternoon Session

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: Statements by the ministry.

APPOINTMENT OF PROF. ERIC R. ARTHUR

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today that Prof. Eric R. Arthur has been retained by the Ontario government, through my ministry, as architectural consultant to the legislative building.

Prof. Arthur has had a long and distinguished career as an architect and a scholar. His many publications include written and pictorial records of structures that depict much of our history and our heritage. His book, "Toronto: No Mean City," is a widely acclaimed best-seller.

Prof. Arthur has long been interested in the preservation of historic buildings. Among his many notable accomplishments is the founding of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. He was awarded the Canada Council Medal for outstanding cultural achievement and was named a Companion of Honour of the Order of Canada. The city of Toronto has also honoured Prof. Arthur with its award of merit for distinguished public service.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, when this legislative building was constructed, it was built to last. One only has to see the solid sandstone foundation and walls, which in some cases are 6 ft thick, to appreciate that the original architect designed this impressive structure truly to be the symbol of government in the Province of Ontario and to house this legislative assembly, as it has since 1893.

Therefore, it is our responsibility to ensure that the architectural integrity of this building is maintained throughout our use of it—

Mr. S. Smith: Solid, thick-headed and unmoving—just like the government.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: —and that the principles represented in its basic design are passed on to future generations.

Mr. Peterson: That's a wonderful speech; it really is.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Prof. Arthur will be called upon for his wise counsel in the evaluation of interior and exterior changes requested for the building and will help to determine the acceptability of such changes as they relate to the integrity of the building. Prof. Arthur will also be asked from time to time to conduct special studies on various parts of the building, such as the chamber itself.

Again, I can only express my great pleasure in the appointment of Eric Arthur as architectural consultant to this legislative building. Prof. Arthur is seated in the gallery this afternoon, and I would ask the members to join me in welcoming this very distinguished and quite remarkable Canadian.

PAY TELEVISION

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to make a brief statement on the subject of pay television. In particular, I wish to comment on the remarks made by my federal counterpart, the Hon. Jeanne Sauv , at the Canadian Cable Television Association's annual convention in Toronto on June 2.

Pay television has been of great interest to my ministry for some time. We have watched closely the private sector's attempts to begin such services, as well as developments in the United States and the federal government's responses to such developments.

In directing the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission to reopen the issue, Mme Sauv  has taken a significant and positive step. She has also formally requested provincial input, and I agree enthusiastically that the issue of pay TV cannot be addressed without provincial involvement.

Consequently, I am writing to the federal minister to indicate that we will be responding in detail in the very near future.

Like Mme Sauv , I think the introduction of pay TV on a broad basis is inevitable and desirable. In fact, in Ontario it already exists. The service is offered in hotels and, more recently, in condominium developments. In these locations, the service is distributed by closed-circuit coaxial systems, which we believe fall within the ambit of provincial au-

thority. Now that the service may also be provided by conventional cable systems, there is even more reason for a co-ordinated federal and provincial approach to the question.

The introduction of pay TV will bring about greater choice of diversity in communications services for Ontario residents. It will also provide new sources of revenue for programme production and the cable industry.

Looking to the future, it signals the opening up of a new dimension in the communications field—the development of new non-broadcasting services delivered to the home.

In its initial stages the delivery of broadcasting services has been the predominant function of cable systems. But, as Ontario has said for some time, coaxial cable technology has demonstrated that it is capable of a greater variety of applications in the provision of communications services.

In speaking of pay TV, therefore, we should not limit our thinking to just one channel offering movies, but to a number of channels which in time will provide specialized literary, educational and other informational and cultural services; and the establishment of pay TV can thus serve as an incentive to the development of those services.

At the same time that we must remain sensitive to the continuing need for a strong Canadian broadcasting system, we believe these developments can be achieved without undue economic impact on the commercial broadcast industry.

As I believe the members of this House are aware, negotiations regarding the provincial role in cable and pay TV have been going on for some time. The developments of the past few months have made it even more imperative that we arrive at an early conclusion to our negotiations. My recent discussions with Mme Sauvé on this issue appear to have been constructive. I am hopeful that the conclusion will be satisfactory to both the federal and provincial governments. During the summer my ministry will be working with Ottawa to arrive at a broad federal-provincial agreement which will ensure a co-ordinated approach to the question of cable and pay TV.

PROFESSIONAL GOVERNING BODIES

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, in its responsibility for administering a number of professional statutes, my ministry has received submissions from certain professional associations and individuals. These submissions and

subsequent discussions have raised fundamental questions as to the means of certification, the scope of the authority of the professional governing bodies involved, and conflicting claims as to jurisdiction over particular kinds of service to the public.

I have therefore requested that the Ontario Law Reform Commission review these matters with a view to making recommendations for comprehensive legislation setting the legal framework within which these professions are to operate.

The particular statutes that are to be reviewed are as follows: the Architects Act, the Law Society Act, the Notaries Act, the Professional Engineers Act and the Public Accountancy Act.

The terms of reference include the following specific matters:

1. The appropriateness of the existing division of functions and jurisdiction of these professional groups; for instance, the appropriateness of the dividing line between architecture and engineering in the design of buildings;
2. The possible creation of new professional groups and subgroups or the amalgamation of groups within these professions; for instance, the possible abolition of the existing divisions between chartered accountants and accredited public accountants;
3. The need for recognition and definition of the roles of paraprofessionals, such as law clerks and engineering technologists, and the appropriateness of the possible creation of new governing bodies for these groups;
4. The amount of control these professional groups should have over the training and certification of their members;
5. The appropriateness of permitting members of these professions to incorporate their practices; and
6. Any incidental questions raised by the foregoing issues.

I have asked the commission to give these matters as high a priority as possible and I am pleased to report that the work is already under way.

LAW OF EVIDENCE REPORT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, further, I am pleased to present today the report of the Ontario Law Reform Commission on the law of evidence, which is the culmination of a project begun by the commission in 1967.

In addition to the usual discussion of the issues involved and the formulation of recom-

mendations, the commission has prepared a draft bill embodying its proposed changes to the law of evidence in all proceedings in which the Province of Ontario has jurisdiction.

The report contains a large number of proposals for change in the law governing proof of facts in civil trials and quasi-criminal cases, some of which represent major departures from the existing law. For example, the commission proposes new rules allowing the admission of hearsay evidence where the person who made a statement is unavailable to testify. The recommendations include a provision for the exclusion of evidence on the ground that it was obtained illegally or under circumstances which are repugnant to the fair administration of justice. The report also recommends that witnesses should no longer take an oath, but rather should make a solemn declaration that their evidence will be the truth.

The commission proposes the abolition of the right of husbands and wives to refuse to disclose communications between the spouses during marriage, and rejects the suggestion that a professional privilege against disclosing information should apply to the press, doctors or other professionals. The commission makes a number of recommendations with respect to the whole question of Crown privilege.

In addition, the report contains a number of technical recommendations that will be primarily of interest to lawyers, including reforms in the concept of *res gestae*, admissibility of the evidence of children and of expert witnesses, use of notes and records in giving evidence, admissibility of prior statements and prior convictions of criminal offences, and proof of government documents.

The commission also proposes the adoption of the Interprovincial Subpoena Act proposed by the Conference of Uniformity of Legislation in Canada. This would allow an Ontario court to summon a witness from another province in Canada. At present, witnesses in provinces other than Quebec are not subject to the jurisdiction of Ontario courts.

[2:15]

Mr. Speaker, we are indeed fortunate that this year we have both the report of the Law Reform Commission of Canada on the law of evidence and now the Ontario Law Reform Commission's report on the same subject. I will be thoroughly reviewing the recommendations of both commissions, along with the draft statutes proposed by each. There is no doubt that the law of evidence is an area

beset with technical rules which are badly in need of revision, and the government will be working toward that end.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: Six nurses came to my office to see me and before they were allowed into the building they were ordered by the security staff to take off their lapel buttons, which read "Happiness is Community Health." I don't know if that's some sort of weapon that security has decided the nurses might use, but I find it offensive and I would ask the Speaker to find out why it was necessary for these people to take off a button which they were wearing.

[Applause.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I might say that all demonstrations, of course, are to take place outside this building, which has been the case, I think. I'm not just sure whether the interpretation is that a button is similar to a placard. It's a matter of definition.

An hon. member: That's pretty obvious.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. members realize there has to be some control over such situations somewhere along the line. As to whether that's reasonable or not, I will give it some thought. May I also—

Mr. Renwick: Why don't you rule right now that it was unreasonable?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would also just point out to our visitors in the gallery and elsewhere that demonstrations in this chamber are not allowed. That includes applause and any other form of demonstration, booing or talking—at least, yelling or anything like that. I'd just point this out at the beginning of today's session.

Mr. Lewis: Are you not going to rule?

Mr. Speaker: I haven't made up my mind at this point whether a badge is considered offensive. I would think though—

Mr. Lewis: Maybe "Happiness is Community Health" is a subversive slogan too.

Mr. Speaker: I can't see too much harm in that, quite frankly, no. No, I'm just talking about the principle of the thing, but I really don't think it could be considered as a placard. That's my present decision at any rate, so it'll be allowed at the present time.

Mr. Nixon: I want to talk on the matter that you are considering, sir. I didn't want to interrupt you, but I gathered from your first response, when it was put by the member for Sudbury East, that there had to be a line drawn somewhere. I would like to know, sir, while you are considering the point, what you have in mind in that connection?

I can remember on one occasion either you or your predecessor asked someone to be removed who had something that was obviously obscene, but surely in a case like this and many others—you only need look at the new press gallery to see—people have the freedom to wear what they choose in here with signs on it, and there's no offence in any way. I would suggest, sir, that you would certainly be lacking some support in this House if you indicated in any way that a button that is expressing an individual view would be unacceptable here.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the hon. member—

Hon. Mr. Davis: So there is no misunderstanding as to the feelings of the Premier of this province, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that a number of our visitors today come from the great region of Peel.

Mr. Singer: Yes, they can wear buttons.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I had an opportunity to speak to one or two just briefly as I was walking through the corridors—

Mr. S. Smith: This is directly pertinent to the point of order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and I admired their buttons. I have to say that they didn't offer me a button.

Mr. Sargent: You are out of character today.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I can only say to the hon. member for Grey-Bruce, if he says I'm out of character today, then I would only suggest to him that would apply to him seven days a week.

Mr. S. Smith: A comedian you are not.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would only say, Mr. Speaker, as you deliberate upon this—and I recognize the difficulty for you or for those responsible in determining just what is appropriate and what is not—that I personally find nothing offensive about the buttons. The colours are quite consistent with those that some of us used—not as effectively as we would have liked—last September, but they were used.

Mr. Breithaupt: I hope they have more effect.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Certainly from our standpoint, Mr. Speaker, as you assess this, so long as you know what my feelings are, I don't find anything offensive whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker: I was going to point out to the hon. member for Brant that I think he has found the Speaker hasn't been too harsh.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have to say, Mr. Speaker, they also told me what to take for a sore throat.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I think you will find the Speaker's judgement is not too harsh on such matters anyway. I see nothing offensive, but this is the first time I have seen it actually.

Oral questions.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES' NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Lewis: You have got this under control now Mr. Speaker, have you? May I address my first question then to the Minister of Labour? What words of encouragement was she able to give to the public health nurses, or is she able to give, initiating from her ministry, which can result in a settlement of this dispute where clearly one side, in the opinion of all parties in this House, has behaved wrongfully and the public health nurses have been forced out as a result?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I spoke specifically and directly to the public health nurses on the steps of the Legislature earlier today. I told them that I could not promise them anything at this point because we have made arrangements to meet with the Association of the Boards of Health tomorrow. We are still hopeful that we shall be able to persuade them to a rational route of activity which will resolve this problem.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, in order to avoid a legislated finale, why cannot the cabinet guarantee to the board a sufficient amount of money to provide the public health nurses with a wage level commensurate with those nurses in the rest of the system and then say it will support the health boards before the Anti-Inflation Board in whatever the negotiated level of settlement is and resolve it that way, which is a sensible way?

Hon. B. Stephenson: It is always pleasant and entertaining to hear the hon. Leader of

the Opposition provide such direct, sometimes slightly convoluted, but interesting solutions to some difficult problems. I should think—

Mr. Cassidy: Do you mean you haven't thought about it?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am sorry, the hon. member across the floor is the one who doesn't think. However, I would like the Speaker to know that I believe that question should more properly have been directed toward the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) and the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) who have specific control over the monetary issues.

Mr. Shore: Very good point.

Hon. B. Stephenson: My ministry is simply using its good offices to attempt to provide a solution to this thorny problem.

Mr. Singer: Supplementary: I wonder if the Minister of Labour wouldn't agree that it would make good sense that these nurses who have at least the qualification of registered nurses, and most of them have greater qualifications, should get the same pay or a little better and that she, with her colleagues, would exercise all of their efforts to ensure that result comes about instead of passing the buck backwards and forwards along the front row?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I think that I am already on public record regarding the question raised by the hon. member for Downsview.

Mr. Singer: Wilson Heights.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Wilson Heights, pardon me. There are, I am sure, some instances in which public health nurses should be paid more than hospital nurses and some instances in which they probably should be paid less. I think this probably depends on the job evaluation of each individual nurse in each individual region. I do not think that I can make a blanket statement that all public health nurses should be at parity with all hospital nurses because I do not believe that that is factual. However, this is one of the areas of difficulty we are attempting to look at in a rational and sensible kind of way and hopefully to develop a long-term solution, not simply an ad hoc solution.

Mr. Singer: And the minister will speak to her colleagues?

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary question: Could the minister tell us, since this government was so ready to bring in one bill after another for compulsory arbitration in the

teachers' dispute, why will it not force the health units to bargain on a province-wide basis and accept compulsory arbitration by bringing a bill before this House and let us dispatch this matter now?

Hon. B. Stephenson: As I have said before—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. S. Smith: They are strangely silent over there on compulsory arbitration.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. B. Stephenson: As I have said before on several occasions, this is a matter which is between the boards of health at the municipal levels and the public health nurses in those areas.

Mr. S. Smith: They are not bargaining. You have locked them out.

Mr. Cassidy: Who names the provincial appointees?

Mr. Nixon: It is like the teachers and the school boards.

Hon. B. Stephenson: We are attempting to help those elected municipal officials to assume their rightful responsibility in this area and to function properly.

Mr. S. Smith: And the school boards.

Mr. Cassidy: And your appointees?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Interjections are not adding to the debate. Order. Is the hon. minister finished? Thank you. Any further questions by the Leader of the Opposition?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I'm not as finished as the member is.

FARM INCOME STABILIZATION PLAN

Mr. Lewis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I put this question to the Premier? Did I understand him correctly on the CBC morning show today to say it might well be that he would have to disregard the decision of the Legislature last night regarding the farm income stabilization bill and proceed instead to attempt to implement stabilization via regulation for the commodities which the government was entitled to cover without legislation, as it has handled the cow-calf programme?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, as I recall, at a relatively early hour this morning—relatively early, in that the call came through at 7:30 saying that they were going to call back at 8:20—I think I was asked by the gentleman on the CBC, Mr. Harry Brown, whether there were any ways of dealing with this area. I pointed out to him, and I think it's a very fair observation, that in terms of a programme of stabilization in a certain commodity, we had done this already. We have the cow-calf programme which, for the edification of the members of the New Democratic Party who aren't totally familiar with the farming community, is a form—

An hon. member: A very poor form.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have to tell the NDP members opposite that they didn't get any more farm votes after yesterday than they had before. I am sure of that.

Mr. Moffatt: Well, you didn't get any. You won't get any.

Mr. S. Smith: You are both right. We get them all.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would tell the member for Hamilton West, he didn't get a single farm vote after yesterday either. I have got to tell him that.

Mr. Nixon: We may have to find out about that.

Mr. R. S. Smith: There is one way to find out.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Interjections always spoil the question period, so let's keep order. If the hon. member wishes to remain in the chamber, he will remain quiet when the Speaker is speaking.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying very quietly, what I did say to Mr. Brown was, there was legislation already in place that would allow and has allowed this government to move in and meet those genuine problems of the agricultural community. While we will certainly be assessing the amendments that were offered by vote in this Legislature last night, I would say to the Leader of the Opposition, surely he is not saying to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. W. Newman) and the government of this province that if we see a problem that needs to be solved in the agricultural

community during the period of time that was established by the Liberal amendment—that is up to Oct. 31—and we have legislation available to solve it that he would stand up and say we shouldn't? I have to forewarn him that if there is something we can do for the agricultural community, to assist them with their genuine needs, as we have in every other instance, this government, yes, will do it.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Failed again. Stephen.

Mr. Reid: You mean you are going to fire the Minister of Agriculture and Food?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Lewis: If the Premier does anything in the next four months it won't be help, it will be a miracle.

I have a supplementary for the Premier: What exactly is he going to do to implement the explicit directions given to the government by a large majority of the Legislature last night? If he isn't going to act on those directions, how can he expect to have the confidence of the House later this afternoon?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition, in his customary somewhat convoluted fashion, is trying to get me to say just what will emerge as a result of the amendments I saw last evening, and if he is expecting I will have some formal commitment on the part of the government before the question of confidence is raised this afternoon, then he is more childish than his antics demonstrated late last night.

Interjections.

[2:30]

Hon. Mr. Davis: If he wants us all involved in his own calisthenics again this afternoon, I have to forewarn him that I anticipate only one vote and he will only have to jerk his knees on one occasion this afternoon, instead of the three times required last night.

Mr. Nixon: I believe the Premier indicated this morning—and I heard him at noon as well, since his comments were rebroadcast; but I didn't listen as attentively the second time—that there were a number of remedies. Assuming that he's not thinking of the one so readily available to him—to let the farmers decide directly on this matter, as well as the other citizens—what else might he do since, according to him, the legislation yesterday

wasn't even necessary in order for him to go forward with the programme which the minister feels is so important?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I didn't say that.

Mr. Roy: That's what it amounts to.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'm not sure that I can recall as specifically as I might, because it was done a bit on the spur of the moment this morning—

Mr. Nixon: Being so early.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —but I don't recall saying there were a number of things. I think I did suggest that there could be more than one commodity area. I think I also suggested that this was a policy that had already been adopted and the principle established in the cow-calf programme. And I haven't heard any objection from the other members across the House as to the cow-calf programme.

Mr. Wildman: What about the premiums?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: In fact, I think there has been some enthusiastic endorsement—other than by the members of the New Democratic Party because they don't have any constituents involved in the programme—except, as usual, perhaps in regard to the amounts.

Mr. Bain: Don't you count the farmers in northern Ontario?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would say this as it relates to the second part of the hon. member's question: We thought, and we continue to think, that in terms of establishing a mechanism of broader policy as a first step toward stabilization of the agricultural community, the bill last night was and is a first-class bill.

Mr. Reid: Oh come on. You're not serious!

Hon. Mr. Davis: The decision by the Liberal Party of this province to stand in the way of assisting the farmers of Ontario was totally their decision and one that they are going to have to explain. I shan't attempt to do it for them.

Mr. Nixon: This is going to be a great day.

Hon. Mr. Davis: My farmers don't want any programme.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege—

An hon. member: Sit down!

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of privilege of the member for Algoma?

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to point out that there are many people representing the north who have constituents who are in the cow-calf plan and who would like to know at some time what the premiums and the support price are going to be.

Mr. Speaker: I'm sure the member realizes that is not a point of privilege.

Hon. W. Newman: We already told you, but you don't listen.

Mr. MacDonald: Supplementary: In as unconvoluted a way as possible, may I ask the Premier whether what he is saying to the House is that he intends to defy the majority decision of this House last night and in a piecemeal fashion, by order in council, cover such of the uncovered commodities as he and the government see fit?

Mr. Shore: Don't answer that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think it's very obvious that I would never, in any intentional way, defy the majority of members in this House. I may totally disagree with their approach, but certainly I respect the will of this House. However, I will say to the hon. member for York South, who has become the agricultural expert on that side of the House—

Mr. MacDonald: I have been for 20 years—before you were even in the House.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —as I said to his leader, if we find situations that require the action of government in terms of the farmers and agricultural community of this province, we will discharge those obligations as we have so ably for so many years.

Mr. Cassidy: You have had those powers for years too.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We certainly will. And what's more, if we do it—

Mr. MacDonald: You'll do it in a piecemeal fashion, in defiance of the direction of this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: The Premier is always in a better mood when an election is around the corner. He should indulge himself.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am always in a good mood, but today I am in a better mood.

PAY TELEVISION

Mr. Lewis: May I ask the Minister of Transportation and Communications, now that he has made such a vigorous public commitment to pay TV and to bringing about a greater choice and diversity in communications services, have part of his discussions with the federal government consisted of the implications of violence on television and whether he is going to try to deal with that broad subject as he expands the television field so dramatically?

Hon. Mr. Snow: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: Thank you very much.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH INSTITUTE

Mr. Lewis: A question to the Minister of Health: Where is the occupational health institute?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The occupational health institute?

Mr. Lewis: Yes, the one that was announced in November.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I received a recommendation from the Advisory Council on Occupational Health about a week ago telling us what form it thought this institute should take, and this recommendation is currently being studied. I expect to have a recommendation to give to the cabinet before too long.

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Bernier)—oh he's gone, sorry.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Very observant.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

FOREST FIRES

Mr. S. Smith: I'll ask the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development: In view of the tremendous losses in forest land by fires—600,000 acres—is the Ministry of Natural Resources considering stepping up its reforestation programme to try and replace some of this acreage; not on the same land naturally, but generally speaking in the province?

Hon. Mr. Irvine: Mr. Speaker, after the minister has a chance to assess the full impact

of the forest fires, I'm sure the ministry will be giving a full assessment to that programme.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, since the government has indicated on several occasions that it is looking for constructive suggestions with regard to unemployment among the Indians of Whitedog and Grassy Narrows, would the minister discuss with the leaders of the bands and, in particular, in the meeting with the leader of the Whitedog reserve, the possibility of employing able-bodied members of these particular Indian bands in the reforestation programme?

Hon. Mr. Irvine: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the Chairman of Cabinet (Mr. Brunelle) and the Minister of Natural Resources will be pleased to discuss or take under consideration this particular idea this weekend when they will be there.

BURLINGTON SQUARE

Mr. S. Smith: A question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: Can the minister tell us if there is any connection between the placing into receivership of the \$15 million Burlington Square complex owned by Victorian Way Corp'n. Ltd. and Grand Banks Holdings (Ontario) Ltd., and the role of those same two companies, among others, in the tangled web of land transfers and mortgage speculation—also involving, coincidentally some \$15 million—as detailed in today's Globe and Mail?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Mr. Speaker, I have no idea whatsoever of the matter the hon. member raises. I'll look into it to determine whether it is within our jurisdiction, but I doubt it.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, if the minister does look into the matter and finds anything that connects these two events—the one which was reported and the one which I've brought to his attention—could the minister inform the Attorney General about this?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: I would be pleased to do that, Mr. Speaker.

STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL

Mr. S. Smith: A question to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development: Can the minister confirm a report in yesterday's Toronto Sun which states that her office manager in the last election, now the vice-chairman of

the Status of Women Council, Mrs. Anne Tomljenovic, expects to be named shortly to replace Laura Sabia as chairman, and can the minister tell us what her qualifications are for this important position?

Mr. Nixon: Other than her ability to choose good candidates.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned, I have not received an official letter of resignation from Mrs. Sabia. Until such time as I do, she is still chairman of the Status of Women Council.

Mrs. Campbell: A supplementary: In view of the answer to the question, would the minister tell us whether she agrees with what Mrs. Sabia has said with reference to this sort of appointment when she states that these women's councils have become nothing better than pacifiers for government and ladies' clubs and political appointments, for instance, for someone's campaign manager? Would the minister comment on whether you agree with that statement?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I would just reply to the hon. member that Mrs. Sabia has made many comments with which I do not agree, and this is another one.

Mr. Sargent: That's why she is quitting.

USE OF SEWAGE SLUDGE

Mr. S. Smith: A question, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of the Environment: Can he explain why the ministry is encouraging municipalities to use sewage sludge for agriculture fertilizer when there are two very large problems that he is aware of? One is that Environment Canada's recent task force report on PCBs points out that this is one particular route for PCB entry into the environment. The other is the Ontario ministry's own experts have expressed serious concern about the long-term effects of dumping heavy metals contained in sludge on agricultural land.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, any sludge obtained from sewage treatment plants and in turn sold for fertilizer in the province is sold only after it has been processed in such a way that the metals are separated from the actual property or material which could be used as fertilizer. There are various processes and ways of doing this. One is being done in Windsor, for example, as an experiment right now; it is being financed by my ministry. Certainly any product sold as fertilizer and

derived from such plants must be pure sludge and must have the material to which the hon. member referred removed from it before sale.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary. How can the minister assure us of the purity of this sludge when Mr. Black, the head of the province's waste water treatment section says, as quoted in the *Toronto Star*, "One of the major concerns is the long-term effects of heavy metals in sludge applied to soil and this is the reason Ontario is considering other alternatives."

How can he say this in view of the report of Environment Canada that PCBs find their way into the environment through such sludge?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The hon. member really hasn't familiarized himself with the subject.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Among many other things.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: What I am saying is that the sludge has to be taken from the plant. It has to be put somewhere and one of the methods is to use the treated sludge or fine sludge as fertilizer. We are recommending and certainly we are overseeing the sale of any fertilizer from sludge which contains metals.

There are methods in existence now whereby the metals can be removed from the sludge. There are various methods. One is by way of an experiment now in process in the Windsor area, as I say, as a result of some financing by my ministry. We do not recommend the sale of sludge which contains the metals to which the hon. member refers and which would or could possibly contain PCBs. We just don't use it. The farmers should not use it.

Mr. Breithaupt: We are obviously not as deeply into the subject as the minister is.

Mr. Mancini: Could the minister inform this House when the programme started in the Windsor area in view of the fact he has recently written me a letter stating that he did not want people using this sludge in the agricultural areas of Essex county?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I don't want people using sludge direct from the plant on their land for fertilizer. I am sure the hon. member has heard of one Pierre Philip who is well known in that area and who has been attempting to sell the fertilizer he derives from sludge. He is now being financed by the ministry to expand his operation so that more and more people will use this material as fertilizer. It

helps us in that it helps the local plants to get rid of the stuff.

Mr. Germa: Is it not true that untreated sludge is being used to reclaim waste land at Frood Mine in the city of Sudbury? Can the minister advise what dangers are inherent in this activity sponsored by his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The danger, as I have indicated, is that one doesn't remove the metals from the sludge. If one uses the actual raw sludge which comes out of the plant, there is a possibility of some contamination, for example, from PCBs if that happens to get into the streams or rivers. In some way, it could contaminate water. If we are using raw sludge in the hon. member's area, as indicated, it must be by way of experiment. It must be under some type of closed experimentation so that there is no danger of contamination or leakage.

[2:45]

RETAIL SALES TAX ON MOTEL ROOM SUPPLIES

Mr. S. Smith: I have a question of the Minister of Revenue. In view of the habit of this cabinet to continually inform me about these matters, is he ready to change his gratuitously insulting answer of June 4, 1976?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Just ask the question.

Mr. S. Smith: All right. Is he ready to change his answer? You can judge, Mr. Speaker, whether it was gratuitously insulting or not when you hear what the answer was. At that time he said:

... the manufacturer pays retail sales tax on those consumed articles as they go through in the process. At the end, retail sales tax is charged on the end product. I think the hon. member might just get himself a little briefing on the basic principles of the Retail Sales Tax Act.

Is the minister ready to change that answer in view of the fact that his own regulation, No. 785, specifically exempts that particular thing from happening?

Mr. Nixon: Maybe the minister better get a little briefing himself.

Hon. Mr. Meen: I think the hon. member should realize there is a fair degree of sophistication built into the Retail Sales Tax Act.

Mr. Roy: Oh yes, which only the minister can understand.

Mr. Peterson: Who understands it over there then?

Mr. Shore: That is what we are saying, nobody understands it.

Hon. Mr. Meen: I think many people understand it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Meen: When I used the term, "consumed," I used it advisedly.

Mr. Shore: The minister was consumed actually.

Hon. Mr. Meen: The fact of the matter is that if an article is entirely consumed during the course of manufacture and does not appear in any way in the finished product, then retail sales tax is paid by the manufacturer on that article as he consumes it. I suspect the hon. member is confusing the incorporation of an article into a finished product with the term "consumed."

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; the member for Hamilton West is asking a question.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of a supplementary: Is the minister aware, or is he changing the meaning, of paragraph 38; which says:

Materials, as defined by the minister, that in his opinion are to be consumed or expended by the purchaser thereof directly in the process of manufacture or production of tangible property for sale or use.

Is he changing the meaning of that particular paragraph?

Hon. Mr. Meen: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The member better stick to sludge.

Mr. S. Smith: He is changing the meaning?

FATAL ACCIDENT AT LA SALLE

Hon. Mr. Snow: I would like to respond to a question asked in the House on June 4 by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. This question referred to an accident in the township of Sandwich West where a three-year-old child was killed.

Highway 18, or Front Rd. as it is called, in the village of La Salle is a four-lane highway, two of which are used for parking. The speed limit is 35 mph. The ministry has been monitoring traffic operations in this area for more than five years and we still find that

traffic is below normal rate levels at which signals are considered to be beneficial. In addition, there is no evidence of any concentration of accidents in the area.

Located near the intersection of Highway 18 and Laurier Dr. is a municipal park with a swimming pool which generates some additional pedestrian traffic, primarily school children, during the summer months. Playground signs are installed on the highway and the municipality provides a crossing guard when the pool is open.

Some weeks ago there was a regrettable accident in which a three-year-old child was killed. The accident involving the three-year-old occurred approximately 200 ft south of the intersection, and I would think it is unlikely that traffic signals would have prevented this unfortunate accident. However, this matter was also raised during my ministry estimate's debate by the hon. member for Essex South and I have agreed to have a senior representative of the ministry arrange for another traffic count and a complete review of this matter.

KUSTOM ENTERPRISES

Mr. Deans: I have a question of the Solicitor General. Does the Solicitor General recall my asking last week that he consult with his colleague, the Minister of Customer and Commercial Relations, with regard to the need to investigate Kustom Enterprises and the apparent owner thereof, Bill Greathead? Does the minister think it proper, after having been advised by myself, that Mr. Greathead was going to leave the country—that's both the OPP and the Hamilton regional police having been advised by me on Saturday last that Mr. Greathead was packing and leaving—nothing was done and when the investigation was commenced on Monday he was gone?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I recall the member asking me a question in connection with this, suggesting that I should consult with my colleague, and I said that if it was a police matter, as he suggested it was, no consultation was necessary. We immediately passed this message to the OPP. The Ontario Provincial Police made some preliminary investigation to see the nature of the suggested offence. I don't know what information passed from the hon. member to the OPP, but I am assuming that some did go back and forth. In any event, the OPP found the matter situated within the Hamilton-Wentworth policing area. The Hamilton-Wentworth police entered the situation and

said it was a matter that they would look after since it was in their jurisdiction, not the OPP, and that is the last information I have on it. I assumed that the investigation was continuing. This additional information that my friend gives me is new to me, and all I can do is to say that I will get in touch with the Hamilton-Wentworth police and find out the course of their investigation.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary: Doesn't the minister feel that when a police force—whether the OPP or the Hamilton regional police—is informed that someone who is a suspect in what may well be a fraud case is in the process of moving bag and baggage, closing the operation and moving out of the country, they at least have an obligation to investigate it at that point and not wait until the person has moved?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, until some charge is laid this man is quite free to go back and forth like any other citizen. I don't know whether they made any investigation or whether they were in touch with him at all, and I assume that—when you are investigating a person you don't always go and knock on his front door and have a chat with him. But I don't know the facts, I don't know what the situation is, but I know that the policemen when they are investigating don't always make a frontal approach. Sometimes they get other types of information.

Mr. Deans: Will you talk to your colleague now, because he is involved—

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I certainly said, Mr. Speaker, that I would be very pleased to get additional information and find out the progress of the investigation.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION COSTS

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Colleges and Universities: With respect to the Fiscal Arrangements Act which was a matter of discussion in Ottawa in the past few days, what is the position of this ministry to the charge by the federal government that it is intending to reduce its portion toward post-secondary education because this provincial government, among others, has not been contributing 50 per cent toward the cost, but rather including student tuition as part of its share?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I must say to the hon. member for Kitchener-Wilmot that as yet I haven't had an opportunity to discuss that

conference with the Premier and with the Treasurer. We did have some briefing prior to that meeting—some discussions I should say—and until I have had a first and full report I am afraid I would not choose to comment on the question at this time.

Mr. Sweeney: Supplementary: If, in fact, that happened, what would be the alternative source of funds? Would tuition fees go up substantially?

Hon. Mr. Parrott: I think we made a very positive commitment for this immediate year that we are facing, and we'll have to give all of those facts a great deal of careful consideration before we make a commitment for the year 1977-1978. I am sure that in due course we will do just that.

OPP AT WHITEDOG INDIAN RESERVE

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, on Monday the Leader of the Opposition asked a question regarding the request by the Islington reserve council for increased policing services.

As the hon. member is aware, members of the Islington band recently attended a meeting at OPP headquarters in Toronto to discuss their problems. Subsequently, another meeting was held in Kenora so that the officers who patrol the reserve could attend as well. Such opportunities for communication are an integral part of the new Indian policing programme by the force.

While the residents of the reserve have asked for an increased presence by the OPP, the level of service has improved considerably with the implementation of the Indian policing programme in northern Ontario. Unfortunately, the financial constraints presently faced by all areas of the government have slowed these improvements for the present.

The detachment at Minaki, a community of 328 people located 40 miles south of the Islington reserve, is staffed by one corporal and 10 constables. Of these, six constables have the patrol of the reserve as their sole responsibility. These officers operate in shifts. One shift works from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but due to travelling time from Minaki, they are actually present on the reserve from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The other shift works from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m., which provides service from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. on the reserve.

However, if there is a disturbance of some sort during the evening, the officers stay on the reserve until all is quiet. Although the

effort is made to maintain this level of service, it was unfortunate that the incident mentioned by the leader of the New Democratic Party, in which members of the band council were threatened, occurred when there was no day patrol on the reserve.

However, I'm informed that three officers were on training courses, one was ill, and two others were called to assist in fighting forest fires. The evening shift did patrol as usual.

The Indian policing programme is still in its initial stages and the OPP is continuing to examine alternative ways of providing service for northern Ontario.

While it may be understandable that the residents of the Islington reserve would like to have a permanent detachment on the reserve itself, the force has endeavoured to deploy the resources it has at hand most effectively.

Since the six officers have been assigned to patrol Islington on a full-time basis, I am pleased to report that the level of crime in that community of some 700 people has decreased dramatically.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I take it then that in responding, despite the past history of the erratic policing on Islington, the minister is not going to provide the band with the explicit request they made to have the detachment on the reserve. May I ask him, therefore, to contemplate how he will respond to the prospect of the band council's resignation?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, we will try to increase our policing services as our ability and as monetary resources make that possible. It's not just this reserve; it's all Indian reserves across the north. The member refers to the band's request, and I would tell him that we've had consultation with them and we will continue to have consultation; but I can't promise any more men or any closer residence at the present time.

WILSON LIGHTING

Mr. Lawlor: Mr. Speaker, to the hon. Minister of Labour regarding Wilson Lighting in Etobicoke, about which I spoke to her: What are the prospects of this bankrupt company; and in particular why can departing employees not receive vacation pay?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that the agent for this company has indicated that wages and vacation pay were to be paid in full. But I can also

tell the hon. member that the case is being investigated right now by the employment standards branch of my ministry. That investigation is not as yet totally completed, but we are assured that vacation pay will be paid in full.

Mr. Lawlor: The minister will let me know, will she?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes.

UTDC DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications in regard to the illegitimate son of the illegitimate father, GO Urban. Is it true that the UTDC is asking the government for some \$55 million to go ahead with the demonstration project of the son of GO Urban? Can he tell us what the \$55 million is for and who is going to buy this when it is finished?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I regret the hon. member was not here the day this matter was discussed in some detail in the estimates committee.

Mr. Roy: He cannot be everywhere.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I do regret that the hon. member was not here, because I know of his interest in this matter and he had specifically asked me to have Mr. Foley at the estimates on a certain day. Unfortunately, due to our other delays in the estimates, we didn't get to that particular item. I know very well that he had very good reason to be elsewhere that day, and I didn't mean anything at all in what I said.

At that time there was a full discussion on the UTDC programme and I stated that we were as far as stage three—stage three was before cabinet—and that I would be making a statement in the very near future. I can't expand on that any further at this time.

Mr. Reid: A supplementary: The minister can't tell us if the \$55 million figure is even in the ball park?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, as I said I will be making a statement on this whole matter within a matter of days.

[3:00]

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES' NEGOTIATIONS

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, on Monday last the hon. leader of the Liberal Party

asked me a question about a letter, of which he had a copy, from the director of personnel, regional municipality of Halton, to the chairwoman of the bargaining committee of the Ontario Nurses' Association, and requested information regarding the legality of the action indicated within the letter under the Labour Relations Act. Since I had not seen a copy of the letter, I could not respond to him at that point. However, he kindly gave me a copy at a later time. We have investigated this letter or examined this letter very carefully and there is no contravention of the Labour Relations Act contained therein.

Mr. S. Smith: A supplementary: Does the minister consider that selective lockouts of those members who go on a protest strike is acceptable under sections 58(a), 58(c) and 61 of the Labour Relations Act?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the legal counsel of the ministry and other individuals within the ministry with great expertise in this area accept that it does comply with the Act.

Mr. Roy: Your legal advice and that of the government has been nothing to write home about.

WAITERS' TIPS ON CREDIT CARDS

Mr. Makarchuk: A question to the hon. Minister of Labour: Is the minister aware that some proprietors of catering establishments which serve liquor at this time are deducting the service charge for a credit card transaction from the tip left or assigned to the waiter or waitress in the establishment? In view of the fact that this is going on, would the minister either stop this practice by regulation or raise the minimum wage these people are paid to the same miserable level the rest of the people in Ontario are getting?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that this is happening but I shall investigate it and I shall report.

Mr. Warner: Raise the minimum wage.

ALLEGED THEFT OF BUTTER

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Attorney General: Can the minister inform the House if he intends to redirect the Crown attorney in Leeds-Grenville to make a complete investigation into the controversy over the famous butter heist—"buttergate" they might call it—and the mayor having 200 lb left on his doorstep after the theft?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I assume that I can thank the member opposite—

Mr. S. Smith: It sounds like a slippery deal to me.

Mr. Reid: You are just trying to butter him up.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I think I can thank the member opposite for delivery to me of the Ottawa Citizen column dated May 25, 1976, which deals with the famous butter heist or "buttergate". I have to confess this is the first time the matter has been brought to my attention. I must confess also that the column certainly aroused my curiosity and I expect to obtain a report.

Mr. Reid: Churn up your interest.

Mr. Roy: If I could ask a supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Has the Attorney General of this province never received any explanation why a number of individuals, including the mayor, who received from 2 lb to 1,000 lb of stolen butter were never charged? Secondly, will the minister look at the specific allegation, apparently by the local chief of police who states that the mayor carries lots of weight and if he wants to do something or get something he usually does it and gets it?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Shorter question.

Mr. Roy: Would the minister look at that? It might be good for a headline for him.

Mr. Speaker: Any answer?

PAY TELEVISION

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications in reference to the statement he made earlier today. Does his reference to the expansion through pay television of specialized literary, educational and other informational and cultural services indicate a position of government withdrawal of service to educational television as we know it in this province?

Hon. Mr. Snow: No, it doesn't, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Foulds: A supplementary: Could the minister inform the House what the cabinet's position is on the meshing of these two programmes?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, the matters I have been dealing with with the federal

minister, Madame Sauvé, have been with regard to regulation, licensing and control of communications in general; they have not been involved with the ETV organization at all.

An hon. member: Why not?

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Cassidy: As a matter of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to your attention the fact that the select committee studying the fourth and fifth reports of the Ontario Commission on the Legislature has had referred to it all matters in those two reports, including matters concerning the legislative building and this chamber, which appear in the first part of the fifth report. Despite that reference to a select committee of this Legislature, I want to raise, as a matter of privilege, the announcement by the Minister of Government Services that she has appointed an architect to consult with her on that same subject.

I want to raise, as a further matter of privilege, the question as to whether you, sir, as a servant of this Legislature, had been consulted inasmuch as the brief of the architect, Mr. Arthur, is intended to continue to include the chamber itself and not just the precincts and the rest of the legislative building.

I think this is a serious matter, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to have a ruling from you as to whether the privileges of the House are not infringed by the appointment of Mr. Arthur to consult with the minister and not to consult with the committee or with yourself.

Mr. Speaker: I will have to consider that matter. I wasn't aware of the matters to which you referred. I will report if a report is warranted.

Petitions.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, just very briefly. Did you say you would report on this matter? Some of us consider it very important and not just a trifle.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I will report.

Presenting reports.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell presented the annual report of Ontario Hydro for 1975.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry presented the report of the Ontario Law Reform Commission on the law of evidence and the ninth annual report of the Ontario Law Reform Commission.

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

Introduction of bills.

RETAIL BUSINESS HOLIDAYS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Shore moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to amend the Retail Business Holidays Act, 1975.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. Shore: The purpose of this bill is to exempt businesses selling swimming pools and swimming pool equipment and accessories from the operation of the Act from April 1 to Nov. 30 in the same year.

PROFESSIONAL FUND-RAISING CORPORATIONS CONTROL ACT

Mr. B. Newman moved first reading of bill intituled, An Act to control Professional Fund-Raising Corporations.

Motion agreed to; first reading of the bill.

Mr. B. Newman: The purpose of the bill is to provide for licensing and control of professional fund-raising corporations. I want to stress the fact that this bill is not directed against local Red Feather, United Appeal or other similar community fund-raising drives where a great deal of the organizational work is voluntary and expenses incurred are a very small portion of the total proceeds. My concern is with the instances of charities netting only a very small percentage of the gross proceeds from fund-raising endeavours organized by professionals.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member stated the principle of the bill earlier.

Mr. B. Newman: I have one more sentence, Mr. Speaker. I think it essential that these boiler shop operations be licensed and controlled. This is the fourth time I have introduced such a bill in the Legislature hoping that the government will accept it.

Mr. Speaker: Really a statement of the contents of the bill is what is called for.

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch: Before the orders of the day, I wish to table the answers to questions 33, 45, 104, 107 and 110 standing on the notice paper. (See appendix, Hansard No. 87, evening session.)

Perhaps before we call the orders of the day, Mr. Speaker, we could indicate to the House that by reason of the importance of the debate which will be conducted this afternoon, the committees will not meet this afternoon as indicated on the order paper. It is also my understanding that before we call the order, there has been some general agreement among the three parties with respect to the time allocations of approximately an hour per political party, more or less, as we approach 5:50.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?
Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

NOTICE OF MOTION No. 4

Hon. Mr. Davis moved resolution No. 4.

Resolved: That the government continues to enjoy the confidence of the House.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I rise this afternoon not only to express my support for the motion just placed by the Premier (Mr. Davis) but to—

Mr. Peterson: That is surprising.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Don't throw me off so early in the speech—but to explain to the House and to the province as a whole the reason for the government's decision to take a day of the House's time in determining the will of the Legislature with respect to confidence.

Mr. Cassidy: No choice. You should have gone to the Lieutenant Governor.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It would be obvious the government didn't take this decision very lightly and I would trust that my colleagues opposite would appreciate it. I would hardly need to remind members of the Legislature that in the British parliamentary system the executive branch must enjoy the confidence of the people's representatives in order to continue.

(Sources on both precedent and the whole question of tradition will inform those interested that on tax matters, on matters relating to fiscal capacity and the right to spend, any limitation of the rights of the executive

by the Legislature does in fact constitute a clear matter of confidence. However, with respect to other bills, unless the government declares confidence to be at stake, those members who have reviewed the authorities I am sure would find the question becomes far less categorical. So it is both unfair, and somewhat elitist I would suggest, for a government to determine on its own what is not a vote of confidence when parliamentary convention or tradition do not provide a clear answer.

It is, indeed, only fair that the Legislature decide precisely what any vote means; fair to the parties in the Legislature, fair to the people of the province, fair to the parliamentary system and to the development of that system.

I, for one, am confident that this province has benefited and will continue to benefit from the co-operation—and I would want to underline this at this particular point in my contribution to this discussion and debate which I have received from the member for Hamilton-Wentworth (Mr. Deans) and from the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) as House leaders. I believe both these gentlemen have served this province well, as well as the interests of their own members in this House.

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Thank you very much.

Mr. Deans: Thank you very much as well, Sid.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations joins with me in some enthusiastic endorsement of that particular phrase.

[3:15]

Mr. Nixon: The rest of your members aren't listening, I agree.

Mr. S. Smith: We agree with the remark about the member for Kitchener.

Mr. Roy: So much for your popularity.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Indeed, when one reflects upon the tremendous number of hours that are involved in this type of discussion in the interests of an orderly disposition of the business of the House, I would underline again what I've already said in connection with my colleagues from Wentworth and Kitchener; three of us are aided by pretty dedicated people who have to do a lot of the detail work by followup. In my own case, Mr. Jim MacKenzie; in the case of the member for Wentworth, Avril Mitchell; and for the member for Kitchener, Dave MacDonald;

and I wouldn't want to let this occasion go by without paying tribute to the concern for detail which these three individuals have as well.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Welch: We just don't take people for granted. We want to say thank you occasionally.

Mr. Conway: Not to mention Eddie Goodman.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Together we've worked—together, that's the key word here.

Mr. Nixon: I thought you were paid.

Mr. Cassidy: Is this a valedictory?

Mr. Reid: Sounds like an epitaph.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Now don't get provocative. Together we've worked with something fairly new to this province; namely the concept and the mechanism of minority government. Unlike the federal government, which maintains at public expense a fairly involved mechanism to deal with bargaining between the House leaders because of their overabundance of minority government situations as opposed to majority government intervals, we in this province do not have—

Interjection.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Roy: You are obviously talking like a federal Tory.

Mr. Conway: Get to Eddie Goodman.

Hon. Mr. Welch: We in Ontario, of course, don't have such mechanisms for this purpose. While minority government may be a feature of a certain age in terms of the politics of any one province or nation, government I suggest to the House this afternoon should have the capacity to manage when the people have chosen not to afford any party a majority.

Mr. Conway: Did you hear that, Leo?

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's exactly what we're doing.

Hon. Mr. Welch: And this is important, both for general political stability and for the quality of our democratic process.

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: You are not used to it.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The purpose of this motion is quite clear. It really allows all parties in the House to pronounce clearly on whether or not the government should be allowed to continue. I believe that the record of achievement of this government in terms of restraint, in terms of programmes and legislation, has been meaningful in every respect.

Interjections.

Mr. Singer: You're being provocative.

Hon. Mr. Welch: To begin with we have ample evidence and direct experience to show we have all tried to make minority government work.

Mr. Warner: And no one supports you.

Mr. Lewis: It is no reflection on you.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think you have a cavity in the—

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: And it's falling around your ears.

Hon. Mr. Welch: We have done much tiring but rewarding work since early March, and there is still very much significant work to be done, as yesterday's rather historic event in this chamber must have surely made clear.

Mr. Peterson: God didn't create the world in one day, Bob, don't worry.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Our position today, only a few hours after that even, should not be one of resignation from our responsibility.

The Leader of the Opposition delineated those responsibilities well, I would suggest, when he said at the outset of this journey last fall that the responsibility of the government is to propose, and the responsibility of the opposition is to dispose. A look at the record will show that on both sides we have fulfilled that particular obligation.

Mr. S. Smith: He meant disposition of one government.

Hon. Mr. Welch: There is simply no breakdown, no malaise, no public clamour that would lead a responsible opposition party on this June afternoon in 1976—

Mr. Cunningham: Such passion.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —on any balance to vote no confidence and to want no-confidence to carry in this House at this time.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And you guys should know it.

Mr. S. Smith: You were doing better before you got to that paragraph.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, through you to my colleagues in this Legislature, I ask them to look at our legislative record. In about 57 days of this session, only a part of which dealt with legislation, we have carried 46 bills to royal assent. There are another 10 which we will carry to that conclusion later this week if, of course, a responsible opposition allows that. For sure, there is more to come when we resume work in the fall.

Mr. Peterson: Which hospital then?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Given the load of legislation we've handled so far, there is simply more time needed in the fall for us to fulfil our undertakings made in the Speech from the Throne read by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. R. S. Smith: Including the one on farm incomes.

Hon. Mr. Welch: What we have done needs in no way to be underrated.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Welch: We promised education amendments and together we passed them. We heard of promised action to maintain levels of health care while controlling costs and the bill brought forward by the government is being held up pending further review to make it more appropriate. We heard of promised support for development goals for the province and my fellow House leaders will know that we have agreed to defer that debate until the fall—

Mr. Nixon: I think we should have the vote first and the debate afterwards.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —knowing that the Treasurer's estimates, now approved will provide a modest interim forum. A range of legislative changes was promised to improve the administration of justice. Most have been proposed and favourably disposed but the three parties know we—

Mr. R. S. Smith: Or exposed.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I almost get the impression the Opposition aren't listening to me.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. House leader has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Welch: How can they possibly vote on such an important motion without at least taking this point of view into account?

Mr. Roy: Do you want our vote or not?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has the floor.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: You should quit while you're ahead.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The three parties know that we want more time for public consideration of the so-called estates bill before we go for second reading and possible amendment.

There was a promise of new house warranties; the government bill came in and it's before us this week for disposition. Of course, I could go on and on with this particular list.

Mr. Peterson: Go ahead. We've got time.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The collective achievements—I underline that—the collective achievements of this parliament have really not been small. The rent review bill proposed last fall—

Mr. Conway: Chesley, Durham, Goderich.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —and substantially modified by both opposition parties should not now prompt them to—

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. House leader is speaking.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that you are paying attention. These particular matters should not now prompt them to feel that the House hasn't worked.

Beyond legislation, I would remind members of the House that we have jointly agreed to several select committees, most of which still have substantial and ongoing work to do. Three of them, which we have set up, have yet to begin their work. At least one of them—to review Ontario's insurance laws—was requested as much by both Opposition parties as by the government. The government sought the help of the whole assembly on a policy matter by setting up the select committee on Ontario Hydro which, I understand, wishes to continue a modified role in the fall as will be recommended, I under-

stand, by the chairman who sits in the official opposition.

We have sought similar shared responsibility with all parties in reviewing the whole complex issue of transportation of goods on the roads of the province. Another committee, also chaired by a respected member of the official opposition, is just beginning a review of highway safety, a matter of no small importance to any of us.

These, I suggest, are some examples of productive co-operation in this House and there are others. Together, we steered ourselves against the natural but short-sighted opposition which would follow our seatbelt legislation. We rode that out for the wider public good—partisan politics aside—and the statistics already coming in show all of us that we were absolutely right in what we did together.

Mr. Conway: Including the member for St. Catharines.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The member for Ottawa Centre will recall that we listened to him before we introduced an amendment on rent review, and because he was compelling we incorporated his amendment. It was just as simple as that.

Mr. Cassidy: It was just like falling off a log.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, who now says he is listening, will recall that the Treasurer readily agreed to break historical patterns and allow the interim supply motion to give more voice over supply in a minority situation to the opposition. The official opposition will recall, there was one of the bills relating to teacher disputes on which they didn't wish a recorded vote, for their own particular purposes, and we are willing to live—absolutely willing to live—with such considerations and we all know it. We all have a voice here.

Mr. Nixon: It's amazing how you forget these things.

Mr. Sargent: Thanks a lot.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Such co-operation was reflected in our agreeing to have public input on the rent review bill last fall. It was only in the general interest of getting the bill proclaimed before the new year that we had to cut that particular process short. Together—and once again the key word—together, we have agreed to send more estimates to committee than ever before. At least one important ministry has tabled, voluntarily, more

information than ever before and the opposition acknowledged that. The three House leaders have agreed to hear estimates in the House or committee—

Mr. Cassidy: It is amazing, such dramatic conversions after 30 years.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —on a very logical, coherent policy field basis for the first time. And we have agreed to time allocations reflecting the importance of ministries as those ministries are viewed by the opposition.

Mr. Conway: What about the Ombudsman?

Mr. Lewis: Stop, stop—no contest, you've won hands down. Who can compete with that?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Oh shucks. The point I am really making, in case it has escaped anyone, is that there has been workable co-operation and sensitivity which has underlined our work here. And the workload for you all, of course, has been quite heavy. The time apportionment agreed to by committee chairmen—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: In your heart you know he is right.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —and House leaders reflected a solid general will to make this House work for the people of the province.

Mr. Speaker, in voting on the Premier's motion, I for one—and I want to say this so there will be no misunderstanding—I for one will be very sympathetic to the unenviable and burdensome position held by the Leader of the Liberal Party in this province.

One of the things that we have all realized on this trip since early this year, is the very heavy responsibility which a third party leader must carry.

Mr. Wildman: Which of his many positions will he take?

Hon. Mr. Welch: It's often decisive to the future of this parliament, and it must be exercised by the incumbent with a party which historically and properly has stressed the primacy of the individual member.

Mr. MacDonald: What do you know about it?

Mr. S. Smith: You'll soon know what it is like.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You must believe in longevity.

Hon. Mr. Welch: And it is a heavy role for that leader and time is toughening him to it.

Mr. Lewis: You're too much.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yet both that leader and the leader of the official opposition—because I wouldn't want him to feel left out in these remarks—

Mr. Lewis: Get off your knees.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order please, this debate is a serious matter and I would ask the hon. members to listen as the debate continues.

Mr. MacDonald: The Legislature that prays together stays together.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, this matter is almost as important as Simcoe Day.

Both the leader of the Liberal Party and the leader of the official opposition have voted for the government on previous confidence matters for the declared and acceptable reason that the people of Ontario do not want a general election at this time, and we on this side—and surely you there—really don't believe that the situation has changed.

Mr. Lewis: Oh yes it has.

Hon. Mr. Welch: We have all learned, through reflection and through experience and responsibility, to treat the tradition of government's spending prerogative and initiative with respect, since it is a confidence matter. We've grown together in our awareness of responsibility and—

[3:30]

Mr. Lewis: We've grown together?

Hon. Mr. Welch: —surely it's not to be put to an extreme and premature disposition today after yesterday's significant actions of this House.

Mr. Lewis: This is quite a siren call to the flock.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I'm confident, as the member for Brock and with other responsibilities, that the people of Ontario view the present circumstances as a test, not so much of confidence but of responsibility and public concern.

Those of us in this profession know that elections are a part of the overall game. We

face them when we have to, always with confidence and with a sense of faith in the wisdom of the people to do what is best for themselves, for their province and for our collective future. I believe there remains much to be done in the purview of the present legislative session and much this particular Parliament still has the capacity, the desire and the will to achieve.

It's a time, Mr. Speaker, for political parties to remember whom they really represent, what the real challenges we face are, and to what and to whom our first responsibility is. This is not a matter of partisanship. It's a matter of obvious public responsibility at a time when Ontario and its people deserve no less.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I've very much enjoyed working with the House leader of the government and the House leader of the Liberal Party. I hadn't realized that it was on that basis we were about to have a confidence motion this afternoon.

I don't doubt for a moment that much of the work that has gone on has gone on because of the goodwill that has been developed among us. But that doesn't begin to address itself to the problems of this government, and I want to speak about the government and not about the friendly atmosphere that has prevailed.

I want to tell you, first off Mr. Speaker, that when you're asked to vote confidence in a government, you've then got to take a serious look at the government and the things it has done. It's not enough to say we've passed 46 bills, many of which were not of great significance to many people in the Province of Ontario. So we have to look beyond the legislative programme, Mr. Speaker, and beyond what has been on the surface of the Legislature. We must look to the very essence and guts of the government, the things it does and the way it acts toward the people of the Province of Ontario.

To begin with, we were saddled in the October, November and December period, with the folly of this government's actions which took place prior to the last election. The government decided, prior to the last election, to abuse its confidence and to use the finances of the Province of Ontario to purchase sufficient numbers of votes to put it back into office.

Then we were faced with an election, and government representatives travelled around the province and spoke, not of what it intended to do but rather, and in rather glowing terms, about the stability of this

government and its actions in handling the money of the Province of Ontario.

The government didn't talk about what it hoped to accomplish in the forthcoming years when it was speaking to the electorate of the Province of Ontario in September of last year. The government didn't, for example, say to one single, solitary person anywhere in this province that it intended to close hospitals; that it intended to move around the province without adequate consultation and without consideration for the effect on the livelihood of many workers in the area, and without giving adequate consideration to the need for health care services. And it never, at any point during the election of September, said it had intention of any kind to take the kind of action that it took in the way of closings and staff reductions in many hospitals throughout this province.

Neither did the government say, not once, that it was its intention to cut to the very bone the moneys to be made available to Children's Aid Societies in the Province of Ontario. The government never once indicated that it was its intention to limit, severely limit, the operations of Children's Aid Societies in their capacities to meet the needs of a number of children who, without those societies, would not have another place to turn in order to have their needs met.

The government didn't say in September of last year that it intended to increase OHIP premiums in the Province of Ontario. The government never once indicated that it was intending, by way of an increase in the OHIP premiums, to gather additional funds for the coffers of the province to replace funds that had been spent inadvisably by this government.

Nor did this government trudge around the province in the months of August and September talking to the municipalities and explaining how it was the government's intention to shift much of the financial responsibility from the broad tax base of the Province of Ontario to the much narrower tax base of the municipal governments of this province, and specifically to the property taxes.

Never once during the election of last year did this government say that its intention was to restrict severely the amounts of money that were going to be made available through the Ministry of Education for special training and special education, particularly in the area of children with learning disabilities.

Now the government turns to us and says it wants a vote of confidence. They want us to say that we think they are fit to govern,

despite having done all of these things, each one of them done with malice and without any concern for the implications or the effects on the people of this province. They say to us, because we have developed a friendship in the Legislature, that we ought to overlook all of the government's indiscretions and all of the actions and activities that have been damaging to the overall well-being of this province.

Mr. Sargent: Is the Minister of Culture and Recreation still going to England?

Mr. Deans: They ask that we give them a vote of confidence. Why? Are we to give them a vote of confidence on the basis of the record of the government in doing all of the things that I have spoken about? Or are we somehow to think, that as an act of faith, from this point on the government will change its attitude and its posture and begin to deal fairly and squarely with the people of this province?

If that were the case, I would have to say that it wouldn't be possible on either count to stand in the House and say truthfully that I have confidence in this government to do what is right and in the best interests of the majority of the people of the Province of Ontario. I haven't got that kind of confidence, and I think that feeling is shared by the majority of my colleagues in this party—

Mr. Haggerty: Speak for yourself.

Mr. Deans: I hope it is also shared by my colleagues on this side of the House in the Liberal Party. Unless we were to decide not to hold the vote until after 6 and give the Liberals a chance to caucus over dinner, I don't see how it would be possible—given the amount of abuse they have heaped on this government in those areas that I have mentioned—for them to rise in their places and support this government at this time.

Mr. Nixon: The same way you did in December, presumably.

Mr. Ferris: What did you say in December, eh?

Mr. Nixon: Remember what you said when you were speaking for your party in December?

Mr. Deans: It's easy, for political expediency purposes, to find some remote reason having to do with people not wanting an election. When in the last 100 years did anyone ever ask the public of Ontario if they would like an election?

Mr. Nixon: You expressed that in December with your speech and your vote.

Mr. Roy: What did you do in December?

Mr. Deans: Did the Liberals go to the public of Ontario in August of last year and ask whether they wanted an election? Did they go to the public of Ontario in 1971 and ask if they wanted an election? Did they go to them in 1967 and ask if they wanted an election? Of course not. They decided whether or not it was proper to have an election in terms of whether or not they could win.

On the basis of what was done by this government and its predecessors in that period leading up to Sept. 18, 1975, I must say that it doesn't deserve the confidence of the House. On the basis of their actions in relation to hospitals, Children's Aid Societies, OHIP premium increases, municipal finances restraints and the reduction of moneys available for education, this government does not deserve the confidence of the House and it is our intention to vote against the granting of that confidence.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I do not believe the usefulness of this Legislature is at an end. We believe that the House was acting very properly last night when the government was forced to accept the conclusions put forward by the votes of a large majority of members that its so-called farm stabilization programme was not acceptable. It appears to me quite a normal procedure indeed to return now to the House and ask for a vote of confidence so that the government might continue.

I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the only time I had any wavering in my mind of the correctness of the position of this party was this morning about 8:20 when I heard the Premier himself being interviewed by Harry Brown on the CBC Morning Show. I don't know whether it was a matter of interest or lightness but I feel constrained to tell you that I was in the car going back to our back pasture, having a very difficult job to perform. One of our calves had died overnight and somebody said: "Before you go to work, get back there and get this thing cleaned up."

Here I was on this bloody awful errand with the grave digger's shovel sticking out of the trunk of my car going back there looking for this calf that was born dead, and what should come on but the buoyant voice of none other than the Premier. It hardly restored life to me or the recently departed, I'll tell you, when I heard him say something similar to

what he said in the House this afternoon, that it didn't really matter what the House did because the government was going to have a stabilization programme by the back door through legislation hidden away in some section of something else similar to the cow-calf programme.

His response this afternoon troubled me. It was a good political response: "Who was going to stop us from meeting the needs of the farmers as we see them" and so on. But essentially his response troubled me deeply, and I'm glad he's coming back to his place, because implicit and inherent in it was just that feeling that he does not understand he does not control the majority of members in this Legislature and that he has not learned what surely is a very basic lesson in minority government.

The minister who spoke first was quick to talk about the difficulties of a leader of a third party in a situation like this. I believe my colleague the leader of the party is doing a good job indeed. But I'll tell you this, Mr. Speaker, that he understands along with our caucus that we are here to do the best we can for the good of the province and certainly, since this is surely a time for frankness, to take what political advantage there may be as the circumstances comes forward. But that is surely secondary or even tertiary. We are here in a historic tradition, elected by the people and prepared to do so again, either tomorrow, if the Premier decides to ask for dissolution, or some time in the fall or whenever this House decides or the Premier decides or the Lieutenant Governor decides on advice that such should come about.

I should say to the Premier in his undoubted ability to respond to questions in the House and the radio that he must be careful indeed that he does not give the impression, probably to subjective observers like myself and to others in the community who are not so close to the system as we are looking for every nuance, that this is just a bit of a, I won't say joke—he doesn't give that impression at all—but something which he somehow is above. All of the power he has is derived from this House, and he knows that, and we as a representative of the people have responsibility to act as we acted last night in what we considered to be the best interest of the province.

There is one thing the Premier must understand—he used the words himself and he should understand that they have meaning—is that his government is directed by the House to take certain actions. If it's a matter of confidence of course, it would come

if it appears that the government is not prepared to take those actions, or if it is prepared to use some subterfuge in order to circumvent the will of the people as expressed in this House. When he puts it in terms of "nobody is going to stop us from helping the farmers," we are all here to help the farmers.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is exactly what I said.

[3:45]

Mr. Nixon: The procedure by which it is to be accomplished is something for debate and settlement in the democratic process. As I say, I was not enthralled with his comments either then or this afternoon. He said it was early "and maybe I could have done better." He always does well on that programme. I like to listen to him; I like to listen to others.

Harry Brown is a very interesting interviewer because he tends to come right to the heart of things. I've noticed that myself on more than one occasion. I think very properly that the political leaders and cabinet ministers are usually very willing to take part in that programme because I think it has an important listenership.

So, I just wanted to say that we do not believe that the usefulness of the Legislature is at an end. The wording of the resolution, of course, is bound to give some of us a personal problem, but these things can be set aside before the greater good of the greater number.

I simply look at it this way myself—which is undoubtedly a bit of rationalization—the question is, do you want an election now, do you think an election now is appropriate? Our party answers we do not want an election now, we do not think it is an appropriate time for an election.

I want to say that my main concern is a relatively recent one, because I know that the Premier has a real understanding of the function of this House, but if his real belief is that government continues as it did during those palmy days—and Drew had to experience some of this, although the first time he was defeated that was the end of it—when the Premier's word really was the last word in here. Well, it really isn't the last word any more. He can act any way he chooses, but if he cannot bear that yoke, then his responsibility is clear and maybe that's something he'd better think about pretty carefully.

It's true that there are many reasons, and they're being pointed out by the NDP repeatedly, why the individual decisions of

ministers of the government having to do with their policies really are very difficult to support. The decision of the Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller)—who I hope is not working more than five hours today, as he says he's not supposed to; I believe he is working too hard. I put that off as a little public advice to a person that I like personally very much. His decision to close the Willet Hospital makes it very difficult for me to vote confidence in what he has done, it's true.

I was very interested as well in the very same programme this morning or some time this—I listen to the radio too much now that I've got so much spare time—to hear Maxwell Henderson, that great friend of the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough). The poor fellow has allowed himself to be saddled with that report of the committee that was chaired by the Treasurer himself. He says the closing of the hospitals would have had meaning only in the context of the government reducing their own tremendously heavy administrative costs at the centre. He said it; we have said it; but maybe the Treasurer himself, if he wants to listen to somebody perhaps more close to his philosophical stripe, should talk to Max Henderson. Maybe he's got some ideas about things like that. I thought that the report was quite an interesting one. It's quite interesting also the way the various members of this government have rejected the very clear recommendations from the committee chaired by the Treasurer in which Mr. Henderson and another group of citizens participated.

We've already discussed here, in the estimates of the Minister of Education (Mr. Wells) who is present, the requirement of the government that we feed the sacred cows of OISE and ETV that have been so long in the stable of the Premier, who is looking with such a benign expression on this particular contribution. The recommendations were very clear. As a matter of fact the bottom line in the OISE recommendation is, let's rent that building to somebody else and let them pay the \$2,195,000 this year. You know, it's there. The bottom line is: Rent the building.

ETV? A very, very clear recommendation. A very clear recommendation that it has grown entirely out of its original context and that what we are now financing is another public network of broadcast. And while the original speaker on this motion—

Mr. Ferrier: Ah, that's silly.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: Well, you're not building in the north.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: You've written it off. You might as well.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We're keeping our options open.

Mr. Nixon: I see that—oh, well. I was going to say they've even gotten around to charging some of the well, no.

The original speaker in this debate was indicating how effective the retrenchment programme has been, and yet the figure that jumps out of the budget was the fact that this year alone we're going to be paying \$1.1 billion in interest payments alone and most of that increase is based on the decisions made less than a year ago to remove the sales tax from automobiles, to give a \$1,500 grant—all of these goodies no longer with us because it was seen that they're not as effective as they once were in buying the votes.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Nonsense.

Mr. Nixon: It may very well be they saved the government's bacon because the Tories were less than 100,000 votes across the province ahead of us in this party. We were 200,000 votes ahead of the second party. It is a matter of concern.

I suppose one could say the Liberals are afraid of an election; I don't believe we are. We are 200,000 votes ahead of the second party. We came second and one doesn't get much for coming second; the government should remember that. The leader knows that but others don't. We were second in 51 seats. Our organization is in good shape and while we don't believe an election is necessary when it comes we will beat the Tories. And we will beat the NDP. I don't say that with quite the same confidence but I do believe that these people are not going to continue in their new responsibilities. They will not continue.

Mr. MacDonald: You get less for coming third.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: We really believe you.

Mr. Johnston: There's only one place in politics and that is first.

Mr. Nixon: What do you know about that?

Mr. S. Smith: Is that a vision I see there?

Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: I think, in the general goodwill this afternoon, it won't be necessary for us to bring to public attention the member for St. Catharines who has seen fit to honour us with his presence.

Mr. Johnston: We don't ever know—

Mr. Nixon: Are they still paying you?

Mr. Sweeney: Will the Premier introduce that new member?

Mr. S. Smith: I thought you had saved that seat for a visiting prophet of some kind.

Mr. Nixon: And there he is. Finally he's come down from a higher region.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member return to the resolution, please?

Mr. Nixon: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I certainly intend to do that. Sure, there are many areas where we have philosophical differences with the government but the Tories have been able to put forward legislation which has received the support of the majority of the members of this House. In those instances where the government has not been successful, I certainly still have confidence that the Premier and the system will respond suitably to the directions of this House. I would hope that he might deal with that in his remarks if he chooses to join the debate, as I expect he will, later in the afternoon.

One of the matters which concerns me certainly and may very well concern all of us in this House during the summer is what is the disposition of the Anti-Inflation Board referral brought by the teachers of Renfrew. This must certainly concern us all. Members may remember the subject of the no-confidence motion earlier this year on which the NDP supported the government, was specifically on that matter.

At the time, the justification given by the member for Wentworth was that an election at Christmas wasn't a good thing. That's why the NDP supported the government in giving the powers of this province to the government of Canada without a reference to the Legislature. An extremely important principle.

Mr. Deans: No.

Mr. Roy: That's what you did.

Mr. Deans: You were still the leader then!

Mr. Nixon: Not at all. I simply bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, that this matter may very well occupy this House during the summer at some time. Surely, if the Supreme Court of Canada finds that this government—

Mr. Cassidy: How are you going to vote then?

Mr. Nixon: —did not act legally, this Legislature is going to have to concern itself—

Mr. S. Smith: How are you going to vote? Are you going to flip-flop on the vote, Cassidy?

Mr. Nixon: I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, we in this party have always supported the anti-inflation concept.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: We felt the province ought certainly to establish its own board and our position was clearly enunciated at that time. The NDP had no position at all. The CLC has been getting after it a little bit and now its members are very much against the Anti-Inflation Board. It is very difficult to know where they stand when the pressure really comes on them.

Mr. S. Smith: That's right. No question about it.

Mr. Nixon: When the pressure comes on them, when their masters in the trades union movement dictate a jump, they say, "How high?"

I know there is a careful distribution of the period of time. We believe that minority government can be made to work. We do not believe that the usefulness of this House is at an end and for that reason we intend to support the motion.

Mr. Acting Speaker: The hon. member from Scarborough North.

Mr. Nixon: Scarborough North?

Mr. Acting Speaker: York South.

Mr. MacDonald: I don't like to be pushed around like that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Acting Speaker: The Chair apologizes.

Mr. MacDonald: I am at home in York South, have been for a long time and intend to be for a long time to come.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I thought you were getting into the academic world?

Mr. MacDonald: Oh, no, that's just one foot in there, one big toe. Mr. Speaker, in no area has this government more clearly lost the confidence both of this House and of the 64 per cent of the people of the Province of Ontario whom the opposition parties hap-

pen to represent, than in agricultural policy. That was clearly indicated last night, and what we are doing this afternoon is going through an exercise the purpose of which is to rehabilitate the rather tattered image of the government, the questionable right of the government to continue to rule in the Province of Ontario.

So I want to focus my attention and my remarks in this particular area, even at the risk of repeating a bit of what has gone on in the last few days, because I think the significance sometimes has not been fully grasped. The lack of confidence is much deeper than just the issues. It is much more basic. For example, this government has always had a very close relationship with farm organizations. It now becomes clear, however, that the government's closeness and the relationship with farm organizations depends entirely on the willingness of that organization to play patsy to the government.

If the organization is willing to challenge the government on issues, then the government becomes spiteful, even becomes open in its attacks. I want to go back a bit. The pattern was established in the government's attitude, for example, with regard to the National Farmers Union. The government didn't like the National Farmers Union. It didn't like its leadership. It didn't like its policies. It didn't like its attitudes and its sharp criticism of the government, and therefore the previous Minister of Agriculture would even refuse invitations to go and speak to the conventions of the National Farmers Union.

The cabinet on occasion would delay and delay an opportunity to hear the annual brief from the National Farmers Union. Indeed in one or two years, they even delayed it until after the estimates of the Minister of Agriculture had been considered in the House. That's kind of spiteful and petty—"If you won't play patsy and do as we want, then we are going to keep you in your place"—but the interesting thing is that the same kind of attitude is now emerging on the part of the government with regard to the OFA. As long as the OFA was in their pockets, or thought to be in their pockets, then fine. They would wine and dine them. They would be very solicitous, but now that the OFA is going to stand and fight on issues—

Hon. W. Newman: That's not true and you know it is not true.

Mr. MacDonald: —on which it is convinced that it is representing the interests of the farmers of the Province of Ontario, then the

OFA gets increasingly into difficulties. It reached the position yesterday where the minister's parliamentary assistant engaged in an open personal attack upon the president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

Mr. Eaton: Not a personal attack.

Mr. MacDonald: Indeed, the parliamentary assistant yesterday looked around to see whether Gordon Hill was in the gallery and said that Gordon Hill had told him that what they were going to do was to extract from the government, when it was in a minority position, what they could get.

Mr. Eaton: That's right.

Mr. MacDonald: We have raised that matter with Gordon Hill and he denies it. He denies that he ever said such a thing.

Mr. Lewis: We asked him last night after the debate.

Mr. MacDonald: Right, he denies it. He denies it, and furthermore—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacDonald: —may I say to the parliamentary assistant that if I have to trust the word of Gordon Hill or him, it would be Gordon Hill every time.

Mr. Eaton: I wouldn't hesitate to say it to Gordon's face. He took me to lunch and said that.

Mr. Nixon: How about making that allegation out of the House? Make the allegation out of the House.

Mr. Peterson: Moocher.

Mr. MacDonald: In fact, the fascinating thing is that this government was reduced yesterday to the Minister of Agriculture getting up and repudiating the position of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture with regard to the bill that it had brought in, repudiating and attacking that position and the position of the NFU, and calling as his witness the Christian Farm Federation, an organization that admits it has 400 members across the Province of Ontario. I am not denigrating the CFF.

Hon. W. Newman: You did yesterday.

Mr. MacDonald: They are doing the job in what they think is their best interest, and I respect them for what they are doing, but I heartedly disagree with them. I submit to this minister if he has gotten to a position where he has to call to his support the CFF

with its 400 members in support of the government's position in this House, while rebuffing the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the National Farmers Union—that is precisely what he did—

[4:00]

Mr. Lewis: What you did yesterday.

Mr. MacDonald: And, indeed, Mr. Speaker—

Hon. W. Newman: That's not true and you know very well.

Mr. MacDonald: Oh, bluster down; bluster down! The minister has had his chance.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order. Order, please.

Mr. MacDonald: Bluster down! We listened to his tirade yesterday.

Hon. W. Newman: The member doesn't want to face reality at all.

Mr. MacDonald: Indeed, the point I want to make is that this government has now stooped to a typical Tory tactic; they've tried it for years with the trade union movement. They say that the leaders are out of step; they're not in touch with the rank and file; so they make this appeal over the leaders and try to separate the leaders from the the rank and file—precisely what they're now doing with the farmers. "The leaders of the OFA are out of touch; they're not reflecting the views of the rank and file of the farmers." You know, Mr. Speaker, that's a kind of cheap, bankrupt approach to politics, and if they're reduced to that it's a revelation of why we shouldn't be voting confidence in them.

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: However, Mr. Speaker, I just want to refer quickly to issues, after this analysis of the basic deterioration that results in us not having confidence in the government.

For example, I was fascinated during the course of the two estimates to discover that this government now has repudiated its whole posture which was enunciated by John Clement in that food conference at the Royal York in 1973, when the whole Province of Ontario was concerned—indeed in a bit of public uproar—over food costs. John Clement convened a conference, at God knows what cost, in which he said, for example, that the Province of Ontario can play a positive role. "Our role will take the time to develop but we think we have a real contribution to make."

When I went to the estimates of the hon. Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations this year, and I spelled out what John Clement had said, and asked what's happening. He said, "Oh, all that with regard to food is now handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food."

So, I went to the Agriculture estimates and I spelled out with regard to the food industry—the food industry that represents 80 per cent of the whole machinery, so to speak, in reference to food; farmers are only 20 per cent of the food industry—"What are you going to do about the conglomerates and what is going on in the greater economic concentration?" You know what the answer was, Mr. Speaker? A little bit of petty, weary, old rhetoric. "We're a free enterprise party and we're not going to start meddling in that kind of thing."

The function of governments has always been to civilize the free enterprise system so that it doesn't victimize the people who have to live and operate within it. What I'm asking this government to do is to live up to the political posturing that it did in 1973 with regard to its role in protecting food consumers in this province. It has repudiated it; the minister just dismissed it out of hand in two or three weary, rhetoric statements.

Hon. W. Newman: Check Hansard.

Mr. MacDonald: Sure we'll check Hansard; you bet we'll check Hansard.

If we go now just for a moment to the question of farm income—and I'm not going to repeat what we did last night, but there's a point that this House should grasp, if they don't realize it.

An hon. member: Overtime, Don.

An hon. member: Go on, Don, go ahead.

Mr. MacDonald: Let me make this point. This government is opposed to farm income protection. It's opposed to it and is engaged in a piece of calculated deception of the public of the Province of Ontario.

Sure, it gave verbal commitment for a farm income protection a year ago. We were in a desperate plight and were losing the rural areas faster than even the government thought was possible, and it brought in a bill and retreated from it, and the pressure kept up. This year the minister brought in at least what he thought was the promise of a bill, and he's retreated from it.

I listened to the parliamentary assistant in a meeting which I shared with him in Grey county in which he poured scorn on Ontario

farmers being interested in farm income protection. He scorned them and he can't deny it.

Mr. Eaton: Not scorn Donald, not scorn.

Mr. MacDonald: And my colleague yesterday testified to the fact that at the ploughing match last fall, when the minister, two weeks before his appointment as a minister, spent most of his time in one of his typical tirades against farm incomes insurance. And now he's trying to kid the people he's bringing in farm income insurance or farm income protection.

Hon. W. Newman: Were you there?

Mr. MacDonald: No, but my colleague reported it and he will vouch for it.

Hon. W. Newman: How do you know I was there?

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacDonald: Or, Mr. Speaker, if you go to land use, here's William Davis three years ago off on a cabinet trek through Grey county, reported in the press as saying: "Ontario is moving towards tough controls on southern Ontario land that will prevent farmers from using their property for anything but agricultural purposes." Now that was putting it in a biased way, but what the Premier was saying then is that they were going to move to protect and preserve agricultural land. The government has, indeed, retreated from it. It has copped out on it. It has handed it over to the municipalities. The government has said in its document here that it is going to leave it to the marketplace, and it is the marketplace that has led to the erosion of agricultural land.

Mr. Speaker, on all of these fundamental issues that affect the farmers, that influence all the people in the Province of Ontario who consume the food that the farmers produce, the government is backing away, it is retreating. It doesn't deserve—

Hon. W. Newman: We are destroying your myths and not misleading the people.

Mr. MacDonald: —the confidence of this House. The government got a taste of it last night. As far as we're concerned, it will not get the confidence of our party.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons I was anxious to participate in this debate on confidence in the government is the fact that I am personally more than a

little tired of the devious manoeuvring in which the Premier of this province has indulged in an effort—

Mr. MacDonald: So he is going to vote for it.

Mr. Riddell: —to make the opposition parties responsible if an early election should be precipitated.

Mr. Cassidy: What about your devious manoeuvring?

Mr. Riddell: The Premier has continually taken the attitude that if his government finds it impossible to operate in a minority situation, then the responsibility for its failure can be laid on the shoulders of the opposition members of this House. That is arrant nonsense and he knows it. To a very great extent, the choice is his. The people of this province don't want an early election, and I doubt very much that the individual members of the Legislature want an early election.

Mr. Cassidy: You mean the Liberals don't want an election.

Mr. S. Smith: You guys are brave.

Mr. Grossman: Speak for yourself.

An hon. member: Mr. Burr doesn't.

Mr. Riddell: If the Premier and his colleagues would only make a sincere attempt to administer the affairs of this province in such a way that the views of all members are taken into account an early election would not be necessary.

To a very great extent, a successful and ongoing minority government situation is very similar to a form of coalition government. That is the kind of government which has proved to be effective and suitable in times of emergency. We are all well aware that with world-wide inflation we are to some degree involved in a period of emergency. Certainly the people of Ontario know that we all have to make adjustments, that we cannot continue to pursue the comparatively carefree way of life we have come to regard as our right in recent years.

Some forms of restraint are obviously essential, and as far as this government is concerned long overdue. The government's programme to reduce the enormously inflated Ministry of Health's budget is a typical example of the inept and downright provocative policies which have been adopted by the Premier and his colleagues.

Mr. Ferrier: How can you vote for them then?

Mr. Riddell: The wisdom of reducing that ministry's budget in some way cannot be denied, and undoubtedly the whole question of putting the brakes on rising medical costs in the province is a very complicated one.

There is of course a distinct tendency for it to become something of a political football if we are not very careful. For some years now attempts have been made to find effective means of controlling expenses, all to no avail.

As long ago as June 18, 1972, Ministry of Health officials made a submission to the management committee. It began as follows, and I quote the problem:

Last year, the policy and priorities board approved a \$50 million constraint package for health insurance in order to lower the rise in health costs. The constraints were approved for implementation in 1972-1973. Instructions have been received from the minister's office not to proceed with implementation of the constraints.

Now note the figure of \$50 million, Mr. Speaker. It is approximately the same amount as the government anticipated saving with its abominable and unconscionable hospital closing programme. As long ago as 1972, ministry officials have submitted a number of proposals regarding methods of effecting such a \$50 million saving. These were, for the most part, in connection with abuses of the system.

Some of the suggestions made were as follows: Computer rules, more precise screening of claims according to OMA fee schedules; medical necessity, creation of new payment rules based on established criteria of medical necessity; formula payment, doctors with excessively high utilization to be paid at a reduced rate; clinics or community health centres to offer total care, thereby reducing costs.

There was, you will note, Mr. Speaker, no mention of any possibility of closing down hospitals. The ministry official most closely associated with the cost saving project was Dr. Kinloch at that time the director of the medical services branch of the ministry. In a letter to the Premier, dated Dec. 21, 1972, Dr. Kinloch said:

The specific proposals arising from the analysis of options were reviewed and accepted by the Policy and Priorities Board. But implementation floundered through belated, time-consuming and

essentially non-productive discussions with the OMA executive and action on critical elements of the constraint package was suspended by newly appointed Health Minister Potter.

Mr. S. Smith: Was the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) on the OMA executive then?

Mr. Riddell: Dr. Kinloch's view of the situation was incorporated in a draft speech prepared for the Hon. Bert Lawrence in April, 1971, when Mr. Lawrence was Minister of Health. The notes express considerable disappointment about abuse of the system and made the statement:

Undoubtedly government must bear some responsibility for these excesses for in not exerting tight controls, we have encouraged the few to set bad examples which have unfortunately been followed by the many. Such efforts as have been made to control abuse, when this abuse became apparent, have been ineffective because of inadequate sanctions available to the administering agency.

Obviously then, some four or five years ago the government was aware of the seriousness of the situation and proposals for effecting some kind of cure were under consideration only to be dismissed, doubtless for reasons of political expediency.

In his contribution to the debate on the Speech from the Throne, the Premier accused the opposition parties of irresponsibility in risking an election. He said, "that would cost the taxpayers millions of dollars."

The French have a saying: qui m'accuse s'accuse. He who accuses me, accuses himself. Nothing could be more appropriate to the Premier's attempts to place the blame for risking an election on the opposition parties. If an early election should occur, whichever party may seem to have pulled the plug, the Premier and his colleagues will be largely responsible.

He has failed to bring forward acceptable legislation. He has made no attempt to reconcile the necessity for fiscal restraint with the basic needs of our people. Closing down hospitals is a classical example of deliberately provocative and ill-considered government action. He has permitted the Treasurer to bring down a budget which makes no real effort in bringing order to this province's fiscal situation. He has forced our municipalities to shoulder the great burden of raising taxes to finance programmes into which they have been inveigled by his government with a commitment that sufficient funding would be forthcoming.

He has turned the blind eye while his Minister of Agriculture and Food spawned a farm income stabilization programme which he surely must have been aware would be unacceptable to the farming community and the opposition parties. He has played footsie with the New Democratic Party and has continually and deliberately manoeuvred the Liberal Party into a position where we have a choice between apparently compromising our principles or changing our minds or risking an early provincial election which nobody in their right mind could possibly want. During the last election campaign the Premier fought tooth and nail to retain his position of power. I would like to remind the Premier that one cannot have power without responsibility.

Whether he likes it or not, although his power may have been somewhat diminished as a result of what transpired last Sept. 18, his responsibility to the people of Ontario is unchanged. He is the man responsible for administering the affairs of this province. He is the man responsible for working in co-operation with the leaders of the other parties and the members of this House to ensure there is no breakdown in that administration. He is the man responsible for making minority government work. He is the man responsible if the opposition parties are forced into a position where it is absolutely impossible to continue to vote confidence in the government, regardless of the consequences. He is the man responsible for the fact that inevitably the years of Progressive Conservative government in this province are fast coming to an end.

Last night's decision by the Ontario Legislature to send the farm income stabilization bill back to the drawing board may be considered a vote of no confidence in the view of the Premier, but let me tell you it is seen by the farmers of Ontario as the way in which government should function.

[4:15]

In an unusual display of nonpartisanship, both opposition parties combined to get legislation for the benefit of farmers. It is the first time in over 30 years that the government has shown any sign, or interest, or concern, at all in any form of farm income stabilization programmes for the farmers.

Mr. Ruston: You're on the way out, Lorne.

Interjections.

Mr. Eaton: The \$2 million you got last year for beef, how much did you collect on it?

Mr. Riddell: According to Gordon Hill—

Mr. Conway: Remember him, Bob?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Riddell: —spokesman for the farmers of Ontario, the farmers do not want an election now and they certainly don't want an election on this issue. Farmers want minority government to work, as they have seen for the first time in over 30 years, that they may get some response from this government on various issues rather than hollow election promises during a campaign.

The press endeavoured to badger the president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture into saying that stabilization programmes cannot be that important to farmers if they aren't prepared to see the government defeated on this issue. Well the president, Gordon Hill, in my estimation is taking a very responsible position in urging members of the Legislature to make minority government work for reasons which have already been outlined.

Mr. Conway: Hear that, Bobby?

Mr. Riddell: If the Premier does not carry out the direction of the Legislature in bringing back an improved farm income protection bill in the fall, then he will be in contempt of the Legislature, and in my opinion any government in contempt of the Legislature should not be permitted to carry on.

Ms. Gigantes: Vote against them.

Mr. Riddell: We, in this party, are prepared to make minority government work, but if the Premier and his cabinet colleagues continue to show contempt for the Legislature, then we will certainly be prepared to go to the people and I can assure you we won't be using Bob Nixon's shovel to bury dead calves.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, when I came into this Legislature—

Mr. S. Smith: Oh God.

Mr. Cassidy: I'll say a word about the member for Hamilton West if he wants then. I think it should be pointed out that the reason we have this debate today is because of the rather unpredictable antics of the member for Hamilton West and of the willingness of the leader of the government to go along with those antics and not to treat yesterday's decision by the Legislature as a vote of confidence, or of lack of confidence in the House.

The way in which the parliamentary traditions of this House have been played with by the government—

Mr. O'Neil: You're wet behind the ears.

Mr. S. Smith: You are as offensive as you are ill-informed.

Mr. Cassidy: —certainly not, certainly not.

If you look at parliamentary practice, Mr. Speaker, you will find that when a major item of the government's programme is defeated then the government should resign. That's what should have happened in this particular case rather than this two-faced piece of parliamentary manoeuvring which is what we are confronted with today.

Mr. S. Smith: Look at Harold Wilson, a good labour fellow. What do you think of his responsibility?

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I don't think I ever had much confidence in the government and the question that we have to deal with today is whether we continue to have confidence. If I didn't have it in the past, it's a question for me as to whether I can begin to have it right now. Frankly, there is nothing in the record, as far as I can see, to say that members of this Legislature should begin to have confidence in the government now and I would say that extends in particular to the people from my region of the province, which is eastern Ontario. If there is an election arising out of this particular debate today then I want to say a few things about eastern Ontario, because I think it's important to get them on the record and I think it's important that the government understand why the electorate in eastern Ontario are turning away from this government, will turn away from this government, in increasing number, and why that loyal blue faction from the east that used to keep the government in power is no longer as dependable as it was in the past.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: You are just trying to scare them. You are trying to scare the people and they won't buy it.

Mr. Cassidy: What? Not at all. Do you know who is scaring them? The people who are scaring them are Darcy McKeough and the experts who write for him and who have been preparing material about the future economic development of this province.

In the documents that Mr. McKeough's planners were allowed to publish, and they were very few, we learn that the population of eastern Ontario was expected to continue to fall as a proportion of the rest of the province. We learn that the net migration from the counties of eastern Ontario is going to continue. We learned that three-quarters of the population growth of the province is

going to be down here in the central part of the province in the region around the Toronto area.

There are enormous urban problems in southern Ontario. Meanwhile; according to the Treasurer's planners, other parts of the province experience slow growth, sub-optimal economies and inadequate access to public services. These conditions are found mainly, although not exclusively, in the northern and eastern parts of the province. These regions have generally lower income levels, less opportunities and fewer social and cultural amenities than the rest of the province.

Mr. Foulds: Shameful.

Mr. Cassidy: Uneven development and too narrow an economic base have brought to these areas problems of instability and even long term declines which will continue unless economic growth in Ontario becomes more diversified.

The thing that is alienating people in eastern Ontario from the government is that they have known those facts for a very long time. The words are not mine. They are the words of the experts who work for the ministry and they are trying to tell the government something, just as the electors in eastern Ontario are trying to tell the government something. But they are not being heeded. That is why we have lost confidence and that is why the electorates are losing confidence in this government. According to the planners, what is needed, and I quote, are "integrated strategies aimed at clearly defined objectives and carried out within a unified policy framework." Words. Words which are meaningless and actions which are meaningless are all we are getting from the government.

The government talks about the need to reduce economic disparities. We don't see it in eastern Ontario; after 10 years of planning we still do not see an eastern Ontario plan. Almost all of the provincial effort that we have seen has been directed to encouraging and structuring growth within the Toronto-centered region. Who gets big servicing schemes? York and Durham. Who gets new towns? North Pickering and Haldimand-Norfolk. Who gets a parkway belt? The area to the west of Toronto. Who gets growth to the east for the growth to the east means a stones throw from the boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto? Who gets 16 lane expressways if they want them? Metro Toronto once again—all directed to the increasing concentration of economic growth in the Toronto region at the expense of the rest of the province.

In the east, what do we get? We get Highway 417 finally completed 10 years after the poor and impoverished Province of Quebec completed an auto route to the Ontario border. We get public land assembly at Carlsbad Springs, which the government not only has abandoned but which it has rejected definitively by giving Housing Action Programme funds to Nepean and the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton so that they can plan for development on private developer-owned land in the south urban communities.

The government holds hands with developers and with its Tory friends from the regional municipality council in Ottawa in order to do that despite the fact of having bought land which it had originally said would be used to bring down the price of housing in the Ottawa area.

Do we get industrial growth? We get weeds on 5,000 acres of publicly-owned land at Spencerville—

Hon. Mr. Irvine: Do you know where it is? Have you ever been there?

Mr. Foulds: Do you know how to pronounce it?

Mr. Cassidy: —which was bought without any consultation with the region and which was bought without consideration for the enormous desire of communities in the area to have the growth within their own boundaries so that they could have balanced development rather than unbalanced dormitory type of servicing.

Do we get jobs? We get no action from the government. What happens to our schools? The rural counties in eastern Ontario are absolutely beside themselves because of the fact that the new financing system for schooling hits particularly hard at the poorer areas of the province which do not have the tax resources to meet expenditures not being met by the cutback in provincial school expenditures. For the last 10 years the government has had a commitment to try to equalize the educational opportunities across the province.

Some good things came out of that commitment, but that commitment is now not worth the paper it was written on. The educational opportunities are drying up. Hundreds of teachers in rural eastern Ontario are finding themselves losing jobs, or when they resign or retire their positions are not being filled. Yet the kids are still there looking for what the Tories once promised, equal educational opportunities without the need to go

to Toronto or to go to Ottawa. Their parents, in the meantime, are facing enormous tax bills for declining educational opportunity.

Farms—the rural economy is in collapse in parts of eastern Ontario and nothing is being done for that.

Francophones—the government is reacting and only reacting. There has been no constructive initiative, in the last six years, on the part of the government in order to ensure true equality for the two language groups in the province.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on about the cutbacks, the way the Children's Aid is being dealt with, the lack of community services, the feeling we have in eastern Ontario that eastern Ontario is always the last to be considered and always the first to be cut, the alienation which is throughout the region. The fact, if I can give a final example, Mr. Speaker, that despite years of urging it is still impossible to find out a word about what the provincial government is doing unless you come down here to Toronto or pay money for a long distance phone call to the centre of all things great and beautiful that are provincial, here at Queen's Park.

Mr. Speaker, we haven't had confidence in this government for a long time and we certainly don't continue to have it now. I say that, not only on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, but also for hundreds of thousands of people in eastern Ontario.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, there are quite obviously a number of dimensions to the great debate of this afternoon. The substantive aspects of the matter of confidence have been, I think, very eloquently addressed to by various and sundry on all sides of the House.

But there is one dimension of this particular debate and, I think, the most central part of this debate, and that, of course is that we are looking, not at a confidence motion, at an election motion and to that I would like very briefly to address myself. To begin with I might say that it's quite obvious and, I think, self-evident that those members of the opposition have no confidence in the government. Clearly we ran, in September, on that very basis.

Mr. Cassidy: Then why are you going to support them?

Mr. G. I. Miller: You listen and you will hear why.

Mr. Conway: And the eloquence of my good and noble friend from eastern Ontario, the hon. member for Ottawa Centre, happily

returned from Habitat, said so very well that there is a range of inequity to which this government must inevitably lay claim and I think we can all support that. The fact that this government does not enjoy the confidence of the majority of the population is again evident by the 36 point, whatever per cent, of the popular vote that they were able to get in the 1975 provincial general election.

Personally, and as someone from a traditionally Conservative part of eastern Ontario, I can't help but sympathize with the emotions put forward by my predecessor, the member for Ottawa Centre, and he is quite right when he says there is absolutely a withering of the previous confidence that this particular government party had enjoyed in eastern Ontario.

Mr. Warner: Shall we move your desk over?

Mr. Conway: It is obvious too, Mr. Speaker, that there is but one political reason why we are debating this, this afternoon and I think that is for the self-aggrandizement of the hon. member for Brampton who feels, somehow, that he must appear to enjoy the confidence of at least a part of this assembly.

But clearly the gentlemen about whom we must be most concerned this afternoon, the men who really make the decisions and the ones who debate the central issue, are not here, not within this exact confine.

Mr. Warner: They are sitting under there. They are sitting in the dock.

Mr. Conway: I see the hon. Edwin A. Goodman, Q.C., who recently, I see, is writing from the government services bureau, talking to the banking community; it's the Ed Goodmans and the Gerry Caplans who really orchestrate this debate.

Hon. F. S. Miller: You are judging us by our party.

Mr. Conway: All is fair in love and politics.
Interjections.

Mr. Conway: But let's make no bones of the fact that these are the gentlemen who orchestrate this particular debate.

Mr. Ferrier: Haven't you got anybody like that?

[4:30]

Mr. Conway: And like the hon. members for Elgin and Lambton, I have no faith in this farm stabilization foofarah. Of course I don't.

Mr. Grossman: All is fair in love and politics.

Mr. Conway: With my career in agriculture, I couldn't.

Mr. Grossman: You may have one next time.

Hon. W. Newman: But your farmers will in your riding.

Mr. Conway: And I know that despite the vituperation of the hon. member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton), the majority of the agricultural community will certainly not support this weak-kneed government's initiative.

Mr. Warner: We're going to have an election.

Mr. Conway: But, I can later on this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, without equivocation and without uneasiness do my noble and honourable duty.

Mr. Grossman: Therefore, you'll vote in favour.

Mr. Conway: And while as I have said, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Grossman: You'll be voting for the government.

Mr. Conway: —while, as I have said, Mr. Speaker, that I cannot have any confidence in this group opposite—

Mr. Grossman: Hear, hear; you're going to support it.

Mr. Conway: —I take the very sense of my inspiration later this afternoon from my very good friend in the loyal opposition who once said something, and I think very understandably—

Mr. Grossman: Eddie Sargent.

Mr. Conway: —in this House at a certain point not so very long ago. With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, might I quote: "That in the opinion of this House whenever minority provincial government is elected in Ontario, no further election should be held for a period of two years, thereby assuring—"and understand this and understand it well, "thereby assuring elected members a minimum period of security of tenure." First things first, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nixon: To work on their pension.

Mr. Conway: With my hon. friends in the Opposition, I could not agree more. Security

of tenure for those of us with my kind of majority is not an important topic. I'd like to conclude, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Eaton: Hurray! When are you going on sabbatical?

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: I'd like to conclude, Mr. Speaker, by referring to my good friend the member for Scarborough West, who has full understanding of the political complexity of this issue.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I thought you took teaching, not dramatics.

Mr. Eaton: Pretty entertaining, John.

Mr. Conway: Having sat on father's knee, he knows the treacheries of minority government. I conclude by offering to my good friend the member for Scarborough West a wee doggerel in appreciation of the kindness that he expressed to me and my party on the weekend just past. Might I conclude, Mr. Speaker, with a wee ode to "Sir Stephen the Steelheart?"

Although mindful of warnings of gift-bearing Greeks,
And the cunning of Stephen as headlines he seeks,
Etiquette still demands that we make fair return
For this gift which perhaps we should rightfully spurn.

* * *

Sir Stephen the Steelheart is well-known throughout,
And this weekend just past we have all heard his shout.
The challenge to dragons, the loud call to arms,
The attempt to beguile our good people with charms.

Mr. Foulds: It doesn't scan.

Mr. Moffatt: Your pentameter got lost.

Mr. Conway: To continue:
With talk of crusade did Sir Stephen weave magic,
His twisting of tails is both awesome and tragic.
He goes for the jugular, knows well how to jeer,
To play games, to make fun, to lampoon and to sneer.

Should we simply stand by, should we quietly ignore,

His attempts to extract just that one headline more?

I prefer for my part to make this dissertation

Appropriate, methinks, for his stance and his station.

* * *

But beware, NDP corporals who lurk in his rear,

Lest he judge that your actions disloyal may appear.

Sir Stephen the Steelheart does not really mellow.

The sheep's clothing conceals just the same lupine fellow.

And I thank you.

Mr. Grossman: Read while you can, John.

Mr. Acting Speaker: The hon. Treasurer.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Ruston: Here we go now.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Central to confidence in the government, is our handling of three important matters—budget policy, management of the economy, and our conduct in federal-provincial relations. Let me review for members the positive actions we have accomplished on these three fronts.

Turning first to the area of budgeting and finances—

Mr. Peterson: Could you put this in a poem?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Ontario had provided an example of leadership and responsibility to the whole country. We have progressively reduced our spending growth rate to what the economies can sustain.

Our 1976 budget took tough but necessary steps. We constrained spending growth to 10.4 per cent and reduced provincial cash requirements more than \$600 million.

Mr. Warner: You closed hospitals!

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We have contained our internal efficiency drive and achieved major reductions in the size of the civil service.

Since 1974, this government has brought down the complement by some 4,000 positions with no sacrifice in the quality of services to the people of Ontario.

Mr. Nixon: What were those 4,000 people doing?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The figures for 1975-1976 indicate the success of our restraint programme.

In my recent budget I estimated the 1975-1976 cash requirements would amount to \$1,889,000,000. The final results for 1975-1976 will soon be available. I am pleased to inform members that we achieved a further \$75 million reduction in spending, with a consequent improvement in our cash requirements for the last fiscal year.

Mr. Warner: Paid for by the municipalities.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We are also staying within our spending estimates for the current fiscal year. First quarter results will be made public, in Ontario Finances, in July and will show that we have held firmly to our spending targets.

The new expenditure control system, set out in budget paper B, is established and working effectively. To pay for those measures, which are not yet fully implemented, such as hospital closings, we have found offsetting savings in other areas. We are monitoring capital programmes, and open-ended programmes, to ensure that spending in these areas stays within the funding limits voted by the Legislature.

The responsible approach to our finances has already shown beneficial effects. It has reinforced our high credit rating. It has ensured access, by Ontario Hydro, to world capital markets on the best possible terms.

Let me reiterate to the members that the province itself will not require any new net public borrowing in this fiscal year, a considerable and commendable accomplishment in itself.

The 1976 Ontario budget was a sound and constructive policy response to the problems of public finance.

Mr. Peterson: Tell them where you are going to borrow the money.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We have outperformed the subsequent federal budget in two basic dimensions. Our spending growth was held to 10.4 per cent versus 16.3 per cent at the national level. Our cash requirements were dramatically reduced versus no improvement at all in the federal deficit.

Mr. Warner: Tell us.

Mr. Foulds: Turn the lights off.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: This means that the province has made great strides in restoring the balance between the private and public

sectors; a balance we on this side of the House believe is crucial to continued prosperity in this province of opportunity.

On the economic front, our policies have been equally effective. Let me review the performance of the Ontario economy. If we compare its performance in the last two years with the problems and instabilities of many other jurisdictions around the world, I think we have sound reason to be proud of the resilience and strength of our economy.

Last year we rode out a major international recession plus a substantial increase in energy prices—

Mr. di Santo: With 10 per cent unemployed.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —plus a dramatic downslide in the United States' market for our manufactured goods. We rode through all of that and still emerged with a performance that was better than most other jurisdictions.

Mr. Warner: Tell that to the people in the job lineups.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The economic recovery began in the second half of last year and has kept up its momentum since then. This year employment growth will amount to 116,000 new jobs, which in an economy so fundamentally tied to export markets is an impressive resurgence.

Mr. Warner: How many unemployed?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Over the past year, the unemployment rate in Ontario has been brought down by half of one per cent. Two key factors of the Ontario economy continue to reflect the impact of direct stimulus provided by the government last year.

Mr. Wildman: Tell that to the native people.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Automobile production in the first four months of this year was running better than 20 per cent over last year, while urban housing starts were up 60 per cent.

Rarely have we seen in past decades, Mr. Speaker, the kind of unanimity among governments we see today concerning the need to maintain a balanced and steady recovery. Part of this unanimity also concerns the management of the public sector. We have taken strong action to curb the unnecessary growth and proliferation of bureaucracy and inefficiency. The medicine sometimes hurts, but we have come through this

period of tough decision-making with a leaner and more efficient public service.

Mr. Sargent: Sure, we lost \$2 billion.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The actions initiated by the government are paying handsome dividends to the people of the province. They are getting more value for their tax dollars now and a more efficient delivery system. We have in the process conducted some of the most searching and difficult examinations of government spending ever undertaken by any government in Canada.

Mr. Warner: Tell that to the Children's Aid Societies.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that this was not an easy task. We note that other governments are doing the same thing all around the world.

Mr. Breithaupt: They are not in as much trouble.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The world energy crisis and the various financial crises around the globe ran deeper than most people realize. They have forced upon all of us a re-examination of what we can truly afford. I am happy to report that after a very unpleasant period of world economic instability, we in Ontario have emerged in a sound condition.

Mr. Sargent: With only \$2 billion in grants.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Before we can make healthy economic progress on a long term basis, inflation must be brought to heel. In this regard, Mr. Speaker, this government has a positive record of action. From the start, we supported the federal anti-inflation programme, despite some reservations, because we knew that strong-co-ordinated national action is the most effective way to battle inflation. It is too early to make a full judgement of the success of the anti-inflation programme, but the results to date are somewhat encouraging. Beginning last December, the consumer price index dropped below the double digit level for the first time since February, 1974.

Mr. S. Smith: When you support it it's federal, when you oppose it it's Liberal.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: In April the rate dropped below nine per cent and this rate continued in May. The members may recall that I tabled a full review of the progress of this programme last month, Mr. Speaker.

Statistics Canada recently published new figures on earnings and profits. In March real

earnings—that is wages adjusted for the effects of inflation—were rising at a faster rate than they were one year ago, that is four per cent compared with three per cent. It is interesting to note that in the first quarter, corporate pre-tax profits rose by 1.8 per cent compared with an increase in sales of about 14 per cent. One has to ask, who is reaping the benefits from the anti-inflation programme? We are not content to rest with a programme of controls on wages and prices which, while needed in the short run, should not form the basis of longer economic development in this country. We are concentrating on laying the basis for prolonged economic prosperity based on the ingenuity and the energy of the free enterprise system which has been and always will be the source of real wealth in this country. What we are not doing, sir, is setting up more Queen's Park bureaucracy to regulate the lives of our citizens.

Mr. Peterson: You don't hire, you just put out contracts.

Mr. S. Smith: How many super ministers?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Accordingly we have set to work in developing a strategy for phasing out the federal anti-inflation programme as soon as possible.

With the economy on a positive upward course, I see the problems of the future as being those of improving our private sector's capacity to stay afloat in a tough and severely competitive international economy. We have to get on with the job of building up the technological and productivity base upon which our standard of living depends. Investments must remain a firm priority of Ontario. Productivity growth must also remain a priority.

Without these two commitments the general prosperity of Ontario and even of Canada will suffer significantly. Ontario is the industrial heart land of Canada. Out of it flows much of the capacity of the nation to redistribute incomes and growth to other regions of the country. Out of it, too, must come the growth and prosperity to create the new jobs and rising real incomes that our citizens expect.

[4:45]

Mr. Sargent: The worst government in Canada.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: It is our resolve to keep this economy solvent, stable and prosperous.

Mr. Warner: It took 30 years.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: That task, Mr. Speaker, requires close co-operation among all parties to the growth process—labour, business, government and consumers—to ensure that we grow with a minimum of conflict and the maximum of understanding concerning those issues that are vital to our survival in a world economy.

We are concerned that Ontario not only survives, but that it prospers and avoids the crippling afflictions of other economies which are being dragged down by inflation, over-expanded public sectors, internal dissension and complete erosion of investor confidence.

With real per capita incomes rising, inflation slowly easing back, more jobs coming onstream and our export markets reviving steadily, I see a good future ahead for the Ontario economy. The problems now are those of effective management by all of us, public and private sectors alike. This is not the time for ambitious dreams of expanding government spending or utopian dabbling with programmes that add to the burdens of our taxpayers.

Mr. Sargent: Best thing you can do is resign.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: What we need is a continuation of prudent economic management and a dedication to those principles of economic growth which this government has recognized as being the foundations on which Ontario society has flourished successfully for over one and a half centuries.

Mr. Warner: Explain the large debt.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me turn to the third issue, this government's conduct of federal-provincial relations.

This week the government went to the federal-provincial conference of first ministers in a spirit of cautious optimism. The federal government laid out a proposal involving, in principle, a major reform of the mutual shared-cost programmes of the country. Many of the federal arguments were ones which we have been advocating for many years. In addition, they recognized our stance on the necessity of spending constraints in the public sector.

As the Premier's opening statement to the conference attests, we welcomed these changes. I think that a hopeful mood was generated around the table on Monday, and there were good expectations that at least the governments of this country would be making a major advance in federal-provincial fiscal relations.

In the Premier's remarks, he emphasized that the success of any such proposal depended on its equitable distribution for both the well-to-do and the not-so-well-to-do regions of Canada. In this regard he strongly emphasized the need to continue and improve that bedrock feature of Confederation, the equalization programme.

We also came to the conference, Mr. Speaker, to discuss the contentious issue of the revenue guarantee. Members will recall that when the government of Canada introduced tax reform a few years ago, an implicit part of the new arrangement was that the provinces would not lose any revenues that would have accrued to them under the old tax system.

Mr. S. Smith: Sounds like the Edmonton commitment.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The proposal for this guarantee was the subject of fierce debate. But in a paper tabled in this Legislature on March 28, 1972, we documented conclusively what would happen if such a guarantee were not part of the tax reform package.

I shall cite only one paragraph from that document, where we said: 'What then will be the position after 1976? The provinces will be forced to increase their tax rates merely to restore the revenue yield they could have expected under the old system. The federal government, by contrast, will have permanently improved its long-run revenue-raising potential.'

Mr. S. Smith: Sounds like the municipalities talking to the provinces.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: "Thus the long run consequences of the tax reform process itself will be a further worsening of the already inadequate tax sharing between the two levels of government."

So the revenue guarantee was accepted by the federal government.

Mr. S. Smith: And by the municipalities.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: All went well until last March. On the eve of our recent budget, and without any notice of prior consultation

whatsoever, Ottawa said that it was going to change the terms of the guarantee to reduce its payments to the provinces. Without going into the details now, Mr. Speaker, suffice to say that this unilateral, arbitrary action was totally unacceptable to all provinces.

The Prime Minister of Canada—

Mr. S. Smith: Sounds familiar.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I say to the leader of the third party, he has made an ass of himself in these last few days, he shouldn't continue any further today.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think we should use more parliamentary language and I ask the minister to withdraw that.

Mr. S. Smith: The Treasurer thinks so, does he?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: He reneged on the Edmonton commitment.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We'll get on with the debate and will the hon. minister withdraw those remarks please.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I would be delighted to withdraw the remark. The member is not an ass, he's a fop.

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, without going into the details—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, it does seem to me that the Treasurer in all his experience in this House ought to be able to conduct a debate at least at the level that we had yesterday. I would ask you to make a ruling to ask this hon. gentleman to treat us all as hon. gentlemen, or ladies as the case may be, which is expected of every one of us.

[Applause]

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the same thing of all members. Will the hon. minister withdraw that last remark and not substitute something else for it please?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw. We are under some time constraints and perhaps the leader of the third party would be good enough to stop his indiscriminate and unnecessary heckling about something he knows nothing about. I leave it at that.

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: I will stop heckling.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Fewer interjections please.

Mr. Lewis: At least he supports the Treasurer.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Without going into details suffice it to say that a unilateral arbitrary action was totally unacceptable to all provinces. The Prime Minister of Canada recognized the validity of the provincial position when he agreed in May not to proceed with any changes until there was a full opportunity to discuss the matter at the June conference.

Mr. Speaker, the revenue guarantee was reviewed on Monday afternoon and every province made the same point to the Prime Minister: The guarantee was part of the legislation passed by the Parliament of Canada, was revenue that belonged to the provinces, and was a fixed part of every provincial budget. The Prime Minister seemed to listen sympathetically and to offer some hope for reconsideration.

That was the situation until Tuesday morning when the Prime Minister said the deal was off. The federal government was bound and determined to renege on its financial commitment under tax reform. There would be no further change in the federal position. In one fell swoop, \$754 million was arbitrarily taken from provincial treasuries, including \$308 million from Ontario.

Mr. Sargent: How does it feel?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, let me not mince words to the House.

Mr. Sargent: You've been passing the buck to municipalities.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The Prime Minister's unreasonable position remains unchanged. The taxpayers of Ontario may face an increase on Jan. 1 next of 3½ points on

their personal income tax, rising to four points the following year, when the guarantee payments cease. That is just to recoup the tax position we already have, but we stand to lose by the unilateral brutal federal action.

This is not responsible federalism. It is not the co-operative federalism we have sought. Trust and faith and equity have gone out the window and in this process this whole country and every taxpayer may suffer.

Mr. Laughren: Now you know how we feel about you.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: We intend to pursue the reform of the fiscal arrangements of this country, but we also serve notice to the federal government that the government of this province intends to protect fully the interests and economic well-being of every person in this province. We will not rest until that goal is accomplished, and until the federal government honours its commitment.

Mr. Sargent: You are a born loser, McKeough, a born loser.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, there are many reasons why this government deserves the confidence of the House. Our performance on the fiscal, economic and intergovernmental front alone is ample proof that we have governed well. We intend, sir, to continue to do so.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer's capacity to engage in debate in this Legislature is limited to reading formally prepared statements and shouting at the other members. That is all he is able to do. He doesn't seem to understand that it is essential in a debate such as this that he deal with the issues which are in front of us and not use this as a forum for delivering a prepared address which he would deliver to the Canadian Bankers Association. That's not what we're here for.

Let me make three comments, three very simple comments. The restraint programme and the motivations for it we don't accept. We never have accepted them. It was the profligacy of this Treasurer that led to the restraint programme, the profligacy which was his device in an election year that finds the government in the position which it is presently in.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Utter nonsense, utter nonsense.

Mr. Renwick: When the Treasurer talks about equitable distribution of wealth he always talks in relation to regions and never in relation to people. We accept the need for equitable distribution of wealth on a regional basis. But when the Treasurer finds time to read the report with respect to the distribution of income among the people of the Province of Ontario, we find that in 10 years of Tory government the people in the lowest 20 per cent and the lowest 40 per cent share the same percentage of the national income and the provincial income that they did 10 years ago.

We disagree with the Treasurer on those matters and we disagree with him on the Anti-Inflation Board support which he has given and which his government has embraced. Some day when the Treasurer has nothing else to do, if he will read the remarks which I put on the record of this assembly on March 17 and I hope my colleague, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) will do the same—on March 17, 1972—you'll understand why this party is opposed to the anti-inflation guidelines and the programme which is put forward.

Mr. Roy: But we have to go that far back, do we? Why did you vote for the government in December?

Mr. Renwick: So we don't change our position and we have never changed our position on this question.

Mr. Roy: That's right, that's presumptuous.

Mr. Renwick: I'm going to say to the Treasurer that when he starts talking about fiscal matters and economic matters and intergovernmental matters, don't kick the constitution around. One of these days there is going to be a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada on the agreement into which this government has entered and it will be nine to nothing striking down that agreement. Mark my words.

Mr. Lewis: Or at the worst six to three.

Mr. Renwick: Forgive me for that digression, because of the intervention of the Treasurer in debate.

Let me go back to the Premier's motion.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Are you telling the Supreme Court what to say?

Mr. Breithaupt: He has phoned every one of them.

Mr. Ruston: He has called all the judges.

Mr. Renwick: Let me go back very briefly to the Premier's motion and to the statement made by the House leader for the government. The issue is not minority government. In all likelihood the next government will be a minority government, the next parliament will be a minority government.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh you have already conceded. You are so busy fighting for No. 2.

Mr. Renwick: All we are talking about is a minor redistribution which may take place. Should we suggest that perhaps if the government lost six seats to us and lost five seats to the Liberal Party, we would have a minority government with the New Democratic Party as the government.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You know how long that will last.

Mr. Renwick: —and with the Liberal Party in second place and the Conservative Party, where they deserve to be, in third place. That's all we're talking about.

Mr. Roy: Oh you are just aiming for second place though. It doesn't make sense.

Mr. Renwick: And when we become the government of this province, I want to say to the Premier, and to the people of the Province of Ontario, that we are now ready to govern.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Are you sure you are ready?

Mr. Renwick: We are prepared to govern.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The spirit is ready but you are not able.

Mr. Renwick: When I read the comment reported by Jonathan—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; the hon. member for Riverdale has the floor.

Mr. Renwick: Thank you.

When I read the report this morning of Jonathan Manthorpe about the Premier's interesting remark in Ottawa, let me make a couple of points. From the day that this parliament was elected we've never been under any illusions that the election will be called when the people want it. Nor will it be called because we combined to vote against the government on any occasion. It will be called when you decide that you think you will get your majority back because you've never accepted—

[5:00]

Mr. Kerrio: That will never happen.

Mr. Renwick: —and your Treasurer has never accepted that what happened in September of last year was anything but a minor misadventure, which the sooner repaired the better it will be for everybody. We don't agree with that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I didn't really expect you to.

Mr. Renwick: We know that you will call the election when you want to call it and it's that simple. But I want to make a comment about another remark.

It's strange, when I read Jonathan Manthorpe's report, and I thought about the debate today, I thought, my gracious, I think the Premier finally understands. I read it, perhaps wishfully thinking, that you had said you would call the election when you ceased to have the competence to govern.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I said "confidence."

Mr. Renwick: Yes, that's what I thought you said. I'd like to think of today's discussion, not being about confidence and whether you enjoy it or we don't like it, but about competence. You no longer have the competence to govern. I say to you that this party—

Hon. Mr. Davis: I used the word "confidence."

Mr. Martel: He couldn't run a peanut stand.

Mr. Renwick: —and this caucus under the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition, is fit, ready, willing and able to govern and we will go to the hustings on any given occasion for the purpose of forming the next government.

Mr. Reid: It has really gone to their heads. Talk about delusions of grandeur.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Now, take a look behind you, Jim, and get a shock. Look around behind you and get a shock. Imagine those guys over there? Unbelievable!

Mr. Martel: Nonsense, look who you're living with.

Mr. Roy: You are not saying the same thing as your leader.

Mr. Lewis: No, that's unfair. On a point of privilege, we'll take first place if it's forced on us.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have not been uncon-

fidant in the last five minutes.

Interjections by hon. members.

Mr. Roy: You just want to consolidate second place.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the hon. member for Riverdale.

Mr. Renwick: I like this kind of debate because it takes us a shorter and shorter time to convince people that we are ready, willing and able to govern.

Mr. Reid: Nobody can look at that caucus over there.

Mr. Renwick: Let me tell you why we're ready, willing and able to govern. First of all, we have a party which is broadly based across the Province of Ontario in a way that a democratic socialist party has never been based. It is strong, powerful and confident.

Mr. Reid: With 28 per cent of the vote?

Mr. Renwick: It also provides, which neither the Conservative Party dares to do, nor the Liberal Party ever gets around to doing, a basis on which, in convention of this party, we decide what the policies of the parties will be and the way in which this particular party would govern the province.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You want to nationalize the world.

Mr. Reid: Baloney.

Mr. S. Smith: One for non-returnables and one against non-returnables. Is that your policy?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Jim, you are smiling at your own remarks.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, all the members will participate in this debate later.

Mr. Renwick: It's only because of the interjections that I'm going to take another 50 seconds on it, Mr. Speaker. You see, Mr. Speaker, we knew what the Premier's response to last night would be. So we didn't have to give any consideration as to what our response would be had he got up this morning and said, "In the sense of the parliamentary tradition, this government will certainly take under consideration the results of that vote last night."

Hon. Mr. Davis: I said that last night.

Mr. Renwick: We never thought for a single moment that we'd have to face that, because you, as the Premier of the province, have an incapacity which is beyond belief to understand how the parliamentary process works in a minority government situation. You have no capacity for it. The true court decisions which you're faced with, one already in existence and one to come, is total evidence in major programmes of this government that whatever their programmes may be, good or bad, they haven't got the competence and the intelligence and the ability to carry them out. We'll take your place next time around whenever you choose to call the election. You will call it and we'll be the victors.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, in rising today I have to tell you that this is one of the most difficult moments in my life. Even as late as last night, going over the record of the government, and the people who have been here who can't find any resolution to their urgent problems because of the lack of concern of the government has made me believe that there is really no way out for this government.

Mr. Martel: But you are going to vote for them.

Mrs. Campbell: One of the difficulties I am faced with, however, is the very fact of the mess this government has the province in; the fact that at this point in time we are awaiting two decisions from two courts which may create tremendous confusion and chaos in this province.

To me, and I hope the Premier will understand, a sign of maturity in this is to give consideration to the fact that this House should not, in my view, be prorogued at a time when those decisions may well be at hand.

There must be a machinery here of the Legislature, and not the executive arm, to try and deal, in an interregnum period, with that sort of chaos. I would like to read a few words from the Hansard of Dec. 18, 1975, and I quote:

I want to say, I think that the people of Ontario are being better served now by this Legislature than they have been in modern history and I think there is a lot yet to be done.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Sounds good!

Mr. Grossman: Who said that?

An hon. member: Who said that?

Mrs. Campbell: And following that:

This isn't the time for petty political games. This isn't the time for one-upmanship.

And this, of course, was from the speech of the House leader for the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, I trust that this Legislature at least, if no one outside it, will recognize an inconsistency and a flip-flop on the very matter of the AIB itself.

Mr. Deans: What has that got to do with this resolution?

Mrs. Campbell: We just listened to a very revered speaker in this House, the highly respected speaker, advise us that they have been consistent throughout.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I would leave too, Jim, if I were you.

Mrs. Campbell: I am supposed to be watching the time—two minutes.

I would like to really close on a note that, I think, makes very significant the kind of arrogance of this government in its treatment of people—and I am very sorry that the government House leader is not in the House to hear my remarks—because I would like him to know that his contemptuous and contemptible treatment of one of the most honourable members in this House, namely the member for Wellington South (Mr. Worton). I don't think there is a member in the House that wouldn't agree that he was one of the most honourable persons in this House, and yet the House leader of the government party, having called him into a meeting, left him to cool his heels while he sat in conference with the House leader of the opposition party. And then you talk about trying to make minority government work!

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is silly.

Mrs. Campbell: That is a fact. It's time you learned that you have—

Mr. Martel: That's a real issue.

Mrs. Campbell: —to work at making minority government work.

Mr. Kennedy: Our House leader would do no such thing.

Mrs. Campbell: You don't know that.

But let us see what happens when these decisions reach us. That is the time when we have to be here to help you out of the chaos and the chaotic conditions you have brought upon this province.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, it does not require much of a decision for a member from northern Ontario to stand in his or her place

and express a lack of confidence in the Conservative government of Ontario. There is ample reason for the disenchantment of the northern members and the people they represent, but probably the number one reason for the disenchantment with this government is its failure to deal with the inequities between northern Ontario and southern Ontario.

We know, for example, that this government has done absolutely nothing to create jobs in northern Ontario. We know, as a matter of fact, that the Minister of Natural Resources exacerbated the problem on Dec. 28, 1975, when he granted to Falconbridge Nickel Mines a further extension on processing in Norway and allowed offshore expenses to be declared for tax purposes in the Province of Ontario. Instead of creating jobs he's shipping them out—and he continues to ship them out.

They have made no attempt, as we would do, to develop Crown corporations for the processing of our resources, which would not only provide jobs but would stabilize the economies of the northern communities, provide a new and broader tax base and create new wealth. That is what we would do for northern Ontario, and that's why we and the people of northern Ontario have no confidence in this government.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You don't do it elsewhere. Ask British Columbia.

Mr. Laughren: The problems of housing in northern Ontario are immense in terms of both quality and quantity of housing. Mr. Speaker, I could take you to communities in northern Ontario that are literally shack towns—towns of 400, 500 and 600 people that have no sewers, no water, no hydro, no telephone service, no health care, poor roads. This government has done not a jot for those towns. They haven't even had the courtesy of admitting that the people in northern Ontario have a right to a better kind of life than that. They've made no commitment whatsoever to improving conditions in the small unorganized communities in northern Ontario.

As a matter of fact, the ultimate in political deception is the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) flitting across northern Ontario, saying what we need is a Ministry of Northern Ontario. I have never heard such deception—

Mr. Davison: You know that; you know that.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: What do you know?

Mr. Laughren: The people in northern Ontario don't want more bureaucracy. The people in northern Ontario don't want delays and committees—

Mr. Warner: They need a government.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: The people in northern Ontario want a commitment from the government of this province to equalize conditions between northern Ontario and southern Ontario, and your act is an act of political deception.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Are you still in the Waffle group?

Mr. Laughren: When I heard the front-row bully for the Tories, the Treasurer, castigating the federal Liberals for their attitude towards regional disparities, I couldn't help but think about his own inaction on the price of gasoline between northern and southern Ontario. According to the Isbister report, using Kapuskasing as an example, there is a 13.4-cent-per-gallon difference. The Treasurer has done absolutely nothing to equalize the cost of gasoline and home heating fuel across the Province of Ontario. How does he justify that?

Mr. Lewis: Exclusive of transportation.

Mr. Wildman: Four per cent over and above transportation costs.

Mr. Laughren: The people of northern Ontario have no confidence in a government that continues to give them the back of the hand, and we will never have confidence in this government.

Mr. Martel: They have only four seats left in northern Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: I'd also like to say a brief word about the attitude of this government towards our native people, ranging from the negotiations between the government and the Reed Paper company to their attitude towards the situation at the Grassy Narrows and Whitedog reserves. They have failed to recognize the rights of their Indian people. They have trespassed on their heritage. For that, we can never forgive this government. And I believe that the people in Ontario will not forgive them for what they've done to the native peoples.

Finally, not only have we lost confidence in this government, I believe that the people

of Ontario, including the people of northern Ontario, have lost confidence in the government; but even more important than that, I believe this government has lost confidence in itself.

[5:15]

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to enter the debate at this point. Clearly, we are talking about minority government. We're talking about the kinds of things that we just don't have to think about in majority situations. These are the sorts of things that people in this House, even those with vastly more experience than yours truly—I am, after all, relatively new in politics—but even those with vastly greater experience have really had no experience with this type of situation.

It's unusual. I think the people of Ontario, like ourselves, will be a little while adjusting to what is going on in minority government; to learning the ins and out of the kinds of decisions that have to be made and the kinds of accommodations that have to be made to permit minority government to work in the public interest.

There are mistakes made. There are mistakes made by the government. They're mistakes made, I suggest, by both opposition parties—and certainly by myself. But I think that, by and large, minority government can be made to work. I agree with the leader of my party, and with the Premier, and with the hon. Leader of the Opposition in the statements they made right after the election—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Whose leader do you agree with?

Mr. S. Smith: The leader at the time they spoke.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, the leader at that time.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. S. Smith: They said minority government could be made to work, and they pledged themselves to making minority government work in the interests of the people of Ontario.

I think, interestingly enough, if you look back at the situation, for the first few months minority government was working. And then the Christmas break intervened; and I'm not sure whether there was too much Christmas cheer or whatever, but it was an interesting thing that before Christmas—

Interjection.

Mr. S. Smith: —we were consulted on many bills. Before a bill was introduced and dealt with, we were given some indication about it, and our opinion was frequently sought. On a number of occasions the Minister of Housing, among others, consulted with us.

An hon. member: But not anymore.

Mr. S. Smith: But somehow it all changed; and it really changed, I guess, in the month of December. First of all—

Mr. Eaton: In January you became leader.

Mr. S. Smith: —there was this whole question of whether or not the Legislature should be given any chance to debate the Anti-Inflation Board and the opting in that the Ontario government decided to do by Lieutenant Governor in Council. And a decision was made, and basically it was: "To heck with them; don't bring it in front of the Legislature. Don't let them debate it. We know what's good for the country."

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's not what we are talking about.

Mr. S. Smith: The cabinet made up its own mind and refused to permit that subject to be brought here for a decision.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Nonsense.

Mr. S. Smith: That was a back-room decision. Now the next thing that went wrong—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Someone must fight inflation in Ontario.

Mr. S. Smith: —we had, as you recall, Mr. Speaker—

An hon. member: Open your eyes: Listen to him.

Mr. S. Smith: We had an interesting emergency debate provoked by our colourful colleague, the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent), on the question of whether the ministry was intending to close down a bunch of hospitals throughout Ontario. And if one looks at the debate, it's really quite sad, quite pathetic, to recognize that no sooner did this House rise for the Christmas recess—

Mr. Lewis: That's right.

Mr. S. Smith: —than another back-room decision was made. These hospitals throughout this province were given notice by one means of communication or another—and in

some instances people heard the news on their car radios—that these hospitals were to close down.

Mr. Deans: Such a nasty bunch.

Mr. S. Smith: Again, this was done without the Legislature being taken into the confidence of the government. And we've found that since then the government has been ruling to a great extent by Management Board orders, even while the House is sitting. This government has a back-room mentality which, frankly, I'm not very happy about.

Mr. Peterson: Come out of the closet, Darcy.

Mr. S. Smith: As a member of this Legislature and the leader of a party in opposition, it would be much easier for me if I could stand and tell the people of Ontario that on each issue I stand four-square against the government and with the people, who I think are being misused by this government, and that it's time to simply vote the government down—no matter what the issue is and no matter the circumstances.

And believe me, I could be posturing. It might not be quite as colourful as that of the Leader of the Opposition, but nonetheless would be quite impressive.

Mr. Martel: Now's your chance.

Mr. S. Smith: It's a lot easier to do that, I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, than it is to try to explain to people—

Mr. Warner: You have to have a policy.

Mr. S. Smith: —that you disagree with the government and yet you're willing in the public interest to permit them to carry on the government for some time longer until a matter of fundamental principle is brought before us.

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: In so doing, there are times when it appears we have to take contradictory positions. In some instances, these have been explained well and in others they have not been explained well. The fact is that we did not want this farm bill we discussed yesterday to pass; we prevented it from passing.

Mr. Deans: You prevented it?

Mr. S. Smith: Let those who criticize us now for turning around and voting to allow the government to continue governing, let them tell us do they want an election on July 21 on the farm income bill? If they do,

then they are being quite consistent in criticizing us. But let anyone other than these folks who appear to want an election any time for any reason, let anybody else who criticizes us say to us do they want such an election or not?

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: If they quote from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture itself, they will realize farmers don't want an election now and don't want an election on this issue. That's the question. That's all we are here to discuss. There is nobody that is going to tell me that I have personal confidence in any one of these ministers, least at all the Treasurer of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You just wish you had somebody as competent over there. You are envious. You know it's true.

Mr. Peterson: Just because the Treasurer can yell doesn't make him competent.

Mr. S. Smith: Let me remind you, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier came before the House on March 17, 1976, and said at that time:

The Progressive Conservative government of Ontario shall continue to govern until it is defeated by the opposition in this Legislature. It is as simple as that. [He went on further] The people shall continue to be served and we are not going to move precipitously with respect to a campaign until there is a combined no-confidence vote.

Yet we find in today's Globe and Mail that he is making threats.

Mr. Davis said:

"My friends, we will govern as long as we can do so effectively. When we can't we will seek a new mandate and explain why; of that you have my pledge."

We see that he is not going to wait to be defeated.

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: We know the contempt that the Premier has for the Legislature. His promise here means very little.

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: Only the Premier of this province could have sat here for two hours the other night allowing the bells to ring and then not face the Legislature but hold a press conference at 10:30 p.m. That is a very odd thing to have done.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: By God, he doesn't play tennis, I'll tell you in the middle of a debate.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Better than playing tennis in Windsor.

Mr. Roy: He would have been forgiven if he had been playing tennis instead of smoking a cigar.

Mr. Ruston: It's better for your health.

Mr. S. Smith: We in the Liberal Party have very little confidence on a personal basis in any one in that government. We are opposed to everything they have been doing in the realm of closing hospitals and to the way they have handled social services in this province.

Hon. Mr. Davis: But you changed your mind; don't forget what happened that Tuesday.

Mr. S. Smith: We are opposed to the way they have reneged on the Edmonton commitment for the municipalities. We are against the farm income bill. We made it clear, however, to the public of Ontario that though we wanted the farm income bill defeated, we did not want to precipitate an election on that particular bill on July 21. Consequently, we have voted to defeat an iniquitous farm income bill, which was a sham and a travesty of what it should have been and we are now going to vote to permit this government to continue—

Hon. W. Newman: You don't even understand the bill.

Mr. S. Smith: —and will not force an election on the people of Ontario in the middle of July on the issue of farm income.

I want the people of Toronto in particular to remember that their representatives from the NDP here have for their purposes of political posturing been willing to put them to a vote on July 21 of this year on the farm income bill. We, the Liberal Party, are not willing to do that. Therefore we have no personal confidence in them but we will vote a ritualistic vote of confidence, pure ritual, to permit them to continue governing just as this party voted in a ritualistic way to allow them to vote in December, 1975.

Mr. Deans: You are unbelievable.

Mr. Acting Speaker: The hon. member for Scarborough West.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, this confidence vote in the wake of last night's deliberations in this chamber is inevitable. It was necessary in terms of the public perception of minority government, necessary in terms of the psycho-

logical realities of this Legislature, that the government bring in a confidence motion in an effort to win the majority support of the House. We understand that. We appreciate that that is what is occurring and I appreciate the way in which the House leader framed that particular position.

As a matter of fact, the House leader went even further. He said that the motion of confidence, if I read him right, should be based on "our legislative record." He was explicit, Mr. Speaker, we agree. We, in the New Democratic Party, agree with the House leader. The confidence motion should be based on your legislative record. The Liberals do not agree.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Ours?

Mr. Lewis: Yours, yes, the government's legislative record. The Liberals do not agree. The Liberals have, since their leadership convention, chosen the electoral prospects as the sole criterion upon which this Legislature should be judged and within which performance is measured.

Mr. S. Smith: What did you do in December, 1975?

Mr. Lewis: That is the sole criterion.

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: Now, it may be, Mr. Speaker—

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: It may be, Mr. Speaker—

Interjections.

Mr. Lewis: It may be, Mr. Speaker, that whether or not you want an election can be considered as one of the factors which are judged in a matter of responding to the House on confidence or no confidence. But that it should be the sole basis on how you respond in this House is utterly and frankly preposterous.

Mr. S. Smith: The people understand. They don't want an election.

Mr. Lewis: What the Liberal Party has therefore done alone in its splendour is subscribe to the law of relativity—relatively this, relatively that, relatively anything, but unequivocally nothing.

Mr. Kerrio: Give your own position.

Mr. Roy: What did you do in December?

Mr. Lewis: When the leader of the Liberal party says that he wants to make minority

government work, may I offer him this observation. Clarity makes minority government work, Mr. Speaker. And I say respectfully but forcefully, inconsistency is the hobgoblin of minority government.

Mr. Breithaupt: Also the hobgoblin of small minds.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: I think we understand—Mr. Speaker—the evolution of minority government in this Legislature. If I may say to the Premier opposite, there was a specific turning point for us in the Legislature. As a matter of fact I agree in this with the leader of the Liberal party. I can almost put it to you in time. In the first months after the Sept. 18 outcome, minority government worked. We focused on rent control. We focused on Sunday closings. We focused on a number of other useful matters.

The turning point for this party probably can be pinpointed on Friday, Dec. 19, 1975, when there issued from the government a series of telegrams closing down the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital, the Northeastern Psychiatric Hospital and four public health laboratories across the Province of Ontario. Mr. Speaker, since then, in all the months that have passed, we have disagreed fundamentally with the government on issue after issue, all of them of substance. It would be utter hypocrisy for us now, having disagreed with you so often in the last several months, to pretend to vote confidence in you this afternoon. That we cannot possibly do.

Let me simply say this, because it's important that it be enumerated. We disagreed profoundly with the government on the closing of community hospitals and said so. We disagreed profoundly with the government on the closing of a psychiatric hospital and said so. We note with some concern that the government is now catapulted into two major court cases, one of which emanates from a divisional court decision which says that the government behaved illegally. We have been fundamentally opposed to your behaviour on that score.

[5:30]

We disagreed with the government's whole restraint programme, and the way it is applied to services to people, and we've said so. We disagreed on its refusal to introduce a bill to protect agricultural land in this province, and we've said so. We disagreed with the government's capitulation to the oil companies in the recent acceptance of the

price increase and we've said so. We disagreed with the way in which the government levied constraints upon the municipalities, and we've said so. We indicated at the time of the budget that the increase in OHIP premiums was absolutely unacceptable and increased the inequity in the tax system, and we said so.

Cumulatively, Mr. Speaker, we have disagreed profoundly and philosophically with this government on every major social and economic area. When I hear the leader of the Liberal Party say 15 minutes ago that some day there will arise a matter of fundamental "principle" to which they may be opposed, let me say, Mr. Speaker, everything I've raised is a matter of fundamental principle to which we are opposed now.

Mr. Reid: Your halo is shining today.

Mr. Lewis: I simply want to say to the Premier, Mr. Speaker, that there's no malice in any of it, there's no personal antagonism in any of it.

Mr. S. Smith: Two sides of the same coin.

Mr. Lewis: There are some ministers whom we fancy more than others or less than others, but I just want to put to the Premier that we have a profound and unbridgeable difference of opinion, and that's simply what we're expressing. As a matter of fact, I've said it right from the outset; that's what is the joy about this Legislature, that there is a profound, philosophic divide and one day it's going to be resolved.

So it is said by Tories and it is said by Liberals, the New Democratic Party's position can lead to an election. "The New Democratic Party wants an election." Yes, so be it. That's politics. That's the way minority government works. We'll take our chances with the electorate. We understand that if an election comes you may take strips off us.

Mr. Reid: You'd better look around you there, chum.

Mr. Lewis: We understand that when an election comes your Minister of Agriculture and Food may raise socialist bogies. It may be that the respected member of this House for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) is right in some of his questions about what will occur in the next election. We understand that. Nobody has any illusions about prophesying a precise outcome.

But we know that we're opposed to the government on a number of basic issues and therefore we're prepared to hazard the elec-

tion, whether it's July 21, July 28, or any other time. And you know what basically makes us feel that way, Mr. Speaker? Because largely of what my colleagues have said this afternoon. We don't think the government commands the trust of Ontario any more. We don't think the government any longer demonstrates that mastery of competence it once demonstrated.

Mr. Reid: It is amazing what 28 per cent can do for you, isn't it?

Mr. Lewis: And we say to the Premier that we believe that the sooner the voters have an opportunity to express their dissatisfaction, as I think they will do, in the present government of Ontario, the sooner that happens the better for the people of Ontario, and that's why our opposition to the government's confidence motion this afternoon.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I'm under the understanding that the very enthusiastic support by my colleagues does not erode the time on the clock. I mean, we don't do that in this House, of course—

Mr. Breithaupt: Add five seconds.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Five seconds? Well, it was more meaningful than that which I heard across the House.

Mr. Cunningham: To you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I rise this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, neither to poke fun at the opposition parties nor to be provocative.

An hon. member: You never are.

Mr. S. Smith: You will manage somehow, and in conclusion—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, members of this House know that being provocative is simply not my style, especially when this House nears a crucial vote as it is at this moment.

Mr. Roy: You are much too dull, yes.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I want only, Mr. Speaker, to take a few moments of the House's time to reflect upon the circumstances we are in, the situation we could find ourselves in and the serious responsibilities faced by this House. There are some partisan things I could say, but I will show some restraint, the same restraint that was shown by my colleague the House leader and my colleague the Treasurer of the Province of Ontario. Now, while both of these gentlemen have far different styles of restraint, both of them

do, sometimes most discernible by the volume and audibility of their remarks—

Mr. S. Smith: The House Leader restrains his words, Darcy restrains his thoughts.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —their restraint was admirable in the face of clear provocation by the members opposite, including the member for Riverdale and the member for Hamilton West as it related to the provincial Treasurer. I do have to interject this.

Mr. Lewis: He needs a defender.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He really doesn't need a defender. I look at your caucus. I have great respect for all of them as individuals. I only say to the member for Hamilton West, you should be so fortunate to have a man of the ability of the Treasurer of the Province of Ontario. You should be so fortunate.

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: He said he wasn't.

Mr. Roy: I think of him every time I look at the deficit.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I've never thought of being provocative when I make a clear statement of fact. That to me cannot be provocative. Certainly not provocative.

Mr. R. S. Smith: It depends whether it is true or not.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And you know, we're not really that easily provoked on this side of the House as you are opposite.

Mr. Reid: It is hard to wake you up.

Hon. Mr. Davis: But of course, really most days, you have a lot more to be provoked about.

Mr. Wildman: That's true.

Mr. R. S. Smith: That's true. We have to look at you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You know, the leader of the Liberal Party really is deserving of some positive concern by all members of the House and I'm not being sarcastic. I say that sincerely.

Mr. S. Smith: Oh no, of course not, I appreciate that, Bill.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is not easy to be Liberal these days in Ontario, or for that matter in the country as a whole.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And I want to cite you my authority for that.

Mr. S. Smith: Or to be a Conservative in Hamilton West.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Be careful about Hamilton West.

Mr. Roy: Yes, be careful. It's in good shape.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I don't come to that conclusion on my own. I refer to Mr. Mackasey, I think one of the more sincere prophets of Liberal philosophy.

Mr. Breithaupt: When you agree with him.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He is indeed worried about the future of Liberalism, not only in this province but throughout the free world. That's what he has said.

Mr. Drea: And even in Hamilton West.

Mr. S. Smith: The forces of reaction are at work and we are hearing them now.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Now, I'm not sure whether the difficulties throughout the free world are the cause or the result of the difficulties here in Ontario. I will not pronounce on that fact. I will leave that up to the public to assess. I say only, Mr. Speaker, that whatever our differences, and there are many, the fact that the leader of the Liberal Party is wrestling with a decision is surely an effort worthy of note. It seems not unlike the way in which the federal Liberal leader wrestled with inflation not too many years ago.

Mr. Deans: Right to the ground.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Both those leaders, Mr. Speaker, know that wrestling can be a full-time job—

Mr. Martel: So is tennis.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —with really tough decisions in any respect. But wrestling does not a decision make.

Mr. S. Smith: Tennis is much harder.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Of course, while the Liberal leader wrestles, the Leader of the Opposition nestles. He nestles, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: Nestles?

Mr. S. Smith: No advertising in this House, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Nestles, n-e-s-t-l-e-s. He nestles comfortably into the role of the full-

time critic of everyone and everybody. But he is not a critic without expertise. I acknowledge that. The government has experts, Mr. Speaker. The NDP has its leader. All matters are known to him or delivered unto him through an intellectual process the rest of us mere mortals can only marvel at. That's all we do. We sit here and marvel at that happening.

Interjections:

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I say to him that being the Leader of the Opposition has its rewards. It does, but it also has its drawbacks, and believe it or not, it has its responsibilities. The Leader of the Opposition is only too happy to have the rewards, intellectually, while he gleefully passes all of the responsibilities on to his colleague, the leader of the third party.

The Leader of the Opposition may not know this, but the people have noticed the one-dimensional opposition, the continuing harping and the self-righteousness. The Leader of the Opposition may not like to hear this, but one does not win elections by being holier than thou but by being more competent than the opposing forces. You cannot adopt the attitude of self-righteousness and expect to win.

Mr. Cassidy: It is getting easier and easier.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will confess this to the House—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: This government does not claim any monopoly on understanding the interests of this province's farming community. We don't presume to do that. We believe that all parties in this House have a role in determining how this interest can be served, as certainly would have been the case—

Mr. Lewis: That's not what you said yesterday. You dismissed us this morning.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —had a committee of the House met to consider the Farm Income Stabilization Act, a committee which would have had a majority from the opposition parties.

But this House has decided differently as is it's right. I say very clearly to all members of the Legislature, that if it is the will of this House that we should be plunged into an election, and I have said in the past and the member for Riverdale now gives some different construction to this, that it will be at my decision when the election comes. I doubt that very much. I doubt that very much. I admire his capacity—

Mr. Renwick: I know it.

Mr. MacDonald: You know it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —a person who wanted to be a Tory candidate; a person who was a Liberal candidate, who has found solace with the New Democratic Party protecting his virginity throughout the whole thing.

Mr. Renwick: On a point of privilege.

Hon. Mr. Davis: But Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Renwick: On a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Point of privilege.

Mr. Renwick: I recognize the wide-ranging interest of mine in politics but I have never been a Tory candidate, nor did I want to be.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I never said you were. You are really more discriminating than you realize.

Mr. Speaker, if on the decision of this House we are plunged into an election then we will be prepared to go to the farming community, not to just one group of farmers but to all of the farmers of Ontario, on what we tried to do for them and what you people prevented. That's what we'll say to the people of this province.

Mr. S. Smith: You must be his mother. That is the only thing I can figure out.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You know, Mr. Speaker, I was particularly proud of the Minister of Agriculture and Food last night. He fought for that legislation that this government believed to be a meaningful step toward helping the farmers of Ontario enjoy more security.

Mr. Reid: Who killed the original bill in the cabinet?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'm still learning about minority governments, I confess. I have to say, I have thoroughly enjoyed it. Perhaps it

is unfair but I have, I have thoroughly enjoyed it. And depending on what happens in five or 10 minutes, I may continue to enjoy it for a while longer.

Mr. Lewis: We are still enjoying it. It won't go on too long.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Every one has had the opportunity to debate.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Thank you very much.

Mr. Reid: Are you taking part in the debate, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Martel: You know what's going to happen.

Mr. Speaker: No. All three parties had the opportunity to debate. I think it's time that we lowered the interjection level and heard the final speaker.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I certainly appreciate the reduction in the number of interjections although I must confess to you, it is really what makes it a little bit of fun. However, I would not in any way question the advice you give. In fact, in some ways, without the interjections, it becomes rather dull.

Mr. Sargent: Especially when you are speaking.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Did I hear something from the member for Grey-Bruce?

Mr. Roy: It was good.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I didn't really hear it but if it's anything like his other remarks it probably has the same degree of relevance. I will read it and pay that degree of attention to it. I learned before I even entered politics that you don't expect to win all the time.

Mr. Peterson: At the age of 2½.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We learned that last September, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Lewis: We learned it through decades.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And we learned it last night. The Minister of Agriculture and Food exemplified the very best of a Progressive Conservative agricultural tradition by the way in which he put the case and brought it in in the language the farmers of this province will understand and was—

Mr. Cassidy: That is the problem.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —in fact, in their best interests.

Mr. Kerrio: Fertilizer.

Mr. Reid: That wasn't the original programme that he took to cabinet.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I happen to lead a party, unlike the Leader of the Opposition, that has support in the country, in the rural areas and in the cities. I lead a government that is working and has worked with all sectors of our society and does so with fairness and with commitment. I lead a government that has shown restraint, a word that is foreign to the Leader of the Opposition and is often misunderstood by our friends in the Liberal Party. I lead a government that is committed—I heard the member for St. George laugh.

Mrs. Campbell: We called for restraints.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am delighted to hear her laugh from time to time because she doesn't do it very often. Life can be fun and she should enjoy it. I won't interject, except I will say to the member for St. George—

Mr. Cunningham: She sure laughed when she beat McMurtry.

[5:45]

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —that her accusations about the House leader of this government were totally unfair and totally unfounded.

Mrs. Campbell: No, they weren't.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There isn't a man in this House has shown greater concern—

Mrs. Campbell: You weren't there.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —or sense of fairness in the conduct of the activities of this House than has the very distinguished leader of the government House side. I would say to the member for St. George to check with her own House leader as to how that circumstance took place.

Mr. Roy: You should smile when you say that.

Hon. Mr. Welch: And then maybe she would be a little more ladylike next time.

Mr. Reid: She couldn't be more ladylike than you are.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. S. Smith: The Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson) will give her a vacuum cleaner in a moment.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I lead a government—and this will come as a surprise to some members because it doesn't always appear—that is committed to working with the federal government in a fashion that will more greatly rationalize services, avoid duplication and save taxes where possible, government that is committed to working with the federal government to bring home the constitution in a fair and equitable fashion to all Canadians.

This government has followed a very carefully chartered course—

Mr. Reid: Back to the text.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —of not trying to solve all of the problems of the world when resources are scarce—

Mr. Peterson: Just creating them.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and the national economy uncertain. It is a course that has resulted in us not doing as much as everyone wants—I confess that—in terms of new spending and new programmes, but it is a course that is responsible for this province now at this time. It's responsible to its taxpayers, responsible to its future and responsible to its realities.

Both of my friends opposite may believe that an election now would be fought on this government's record. They may believe that. I have news for them.

Mr. S. Smith: You never fight on your record. You fight on Trudeau's.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Both of the parties opposite have a record to defend as well, the records of their governments throughout Canada. The great accomplishments in British Columbia are a tremendous opportunity—

Mr. S. Smith: And Peter Lougheed.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —for people to assess. And they're on record in this Legislature.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You know, the record shows—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Conway: Tell us about R. B. Bennett, Bill.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well I am very glad the hon. member knows about R. B. Bennett. Actually if you would spend more time learning about him he might not have made the mistake he did some few months ago.

Interjection.

Mr. Breithaupt: His seatbelt broke again, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Reid: The member for St. Catharines wants to speak.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The time has just about expired, let's have a little more order in the chamber.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, I had better hurry

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let's get on with the debate. We have to finish up very shortly. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the record shows some very interesting approaches and votes even by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Sargent: Time.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Votes which live to haunt him and his colleagues and I think he will recall them very well.

Mr. Lewis: Which one?

Hon. Mr. Davis: You know the Leader of the Opposition, who wants to wear sheep's clothing in the next campaign, may be even in pinstripe sheep's clothing when campaigning among the small businessmen who will, we are told, be fighting on a few selected issues.

Mr. Foulds: Excellent, excellent!

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, we will fight on a few cold, hard facts. Facts about the bureaucracy of the NDP variety, facts about production controls on the farmer.

Mr. Martel: That's excellent, that's excellent.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Facts about local rights, facts about buying out our resource companies and putting the government into every type of enterprise throughout this province.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: These are some facts. These are some of the facts.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: Come up to northern Ontario and fight with that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And while I have not in the past agreed with the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) on too many occasions, I agree with him here today. It's not easy for me to do. The NDP—

Mr. Peterson: Nothing is easy for you.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —that faces us opposite, Mr. Speaker, is the last NDP official opposition for some time in this province.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I sense they covet—

Mr. S. Smith: When the Premier starts to ad lib, you are in trouble.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —the comfortable days of the third party status and they are clearly on their way back to where they feel most comfortable and most at home. That's where you are going.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And, Mr. Speaker, I say naught of the leader personally, everyone knows how much respect I have for him. It's his friends I don't trust.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, Mr. Speaker, it is their irresponsibility in this House, their self-righteousness, their holier-than-thouism—I don't know whether that's a good grammatical term or not—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —their opportunism—

Mr. Lewis: Ask Hughie Segal—he wrote it, didn't he?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, he didn't. The thouism

is mine. That is why I am not sure!

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, these are the ultimates of their ultimate defeat and return to the third party status.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I said yesterday, while speaking in Ottawa Centre, that great riding that is going to return to the Tory fold at some time in the future—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes it is.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I wasn't speaking to a partisan group. It was the Ottawa Board of Trade. I don't know that you have been there yet but I'm sure they would be delighted to have you.

Mr. Lewis: In the fall.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And I tell you this, you'll go there, they will be delighted and you won't get a single vote.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I said there yesterday, Mr. Speaker, that we seek to provide stability for economic growth, for increasing the standard of living and for the bettering of the lifestyles of millions of Ontarians.

Mr. Sargent: Like closing hospitals.

Mrs. Campbell: Public health nurses.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We have endeavoured, Mr. Speaker, to offer new perspectives in social and health spending, perspectives that we believe are the perspectives of those who want to preserve the best in these systems for the future.

Mr. Reid: Like closing hospitals.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: While it is my duty as government leader to now ask all members of this Legislature to—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. You are wasting time.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —join in supporting this motion and you still have time to do so.

Mr. Cassidy: Resign, resign.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I say as well that we are prepared, should that not be the will of this Legislature, to go to the people on our record and on the record of my two colleagues opposite.

Mr. Bain: A shoddy record!

Mrs. Campbell: You have got to be kidding.

Hon. Mr. Davis: This government, Mr. Speaker, has served with capacity and resolve. We have made some tough choices and we have taken the lumps along with those choices and I recognize it. But we're proud of our record. We are proud of our plans for the future. We are prepared to lay them before the people, and we are prepared to continue fighting for a better Ontario.

An hon. member: Enjoy it while it lasts.

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Davis's resolution which was concurred in on the following vote:

AYES	NAYS	AYES	NAYS
Auld	Angus	Kennedy	Swart
Belanger	Bain	Kerr	Warner
Bennett	Bounsall	Kerrio	Wildman
Bernier	Bryden	Lane	Young
Birch	Burr	Leluk	Ziemba—35.
Breithaupt	Cassidy	MacBeth	
Brunelle	Davidson	Maeck	
Bullbrook	(Cambridge)	Mancini	
Campbell	Davison	McGague	
Conway	(Hamilton Centre)	McKeough	
Cunningham	Deans	McKessock	
Davis	Di Santo	McMurtry	
Drea	Dukszta	McNeil	
Eakins	Ferrier	Meen	
Eaton	Foulds	Miller	
Edighoffer	Germa	(Haldimand-Norfolk)	
Evans	Gigantes	Miller	
Ferris	Godfrey	(Muskoka)	
Gregory	Grande	Morrow	
Grossman	Laughren	Newman	
Haggerty	Lawlor	(Durham York)	
Hall	Lewis	Newman	
Handleman	Lupusella	(Windsor-Walkerville)	
Henderson	MacDonald	Nixon	
Hodgson	Mackenzie	Norton	
Irvine	Makarchuk	O'Neil	
Johnson	Martel	Parrott	
(Wellington-	McClellan	Peterson	
Dufferin-Peel)	Moffatt	Reed	
Johnston	Philip	(Halton-Burlington)	
(St. Catharines)	Renwick	Reid	
Jones	Sandeman	(Rainy River)	
		Rhodes	
		Riddell	
		Roy	
		Ruston	
		Sargent	
		Scrivener	
		Shore	
		Singer	
		Smith	
		(Nipissing)	
		Smith	
		(Hamilton West)	
		Snow	
		Stephenson	
		Stong	
		Sweeney	
		Taylor	
		Timbrell	
		Villeneuve	
		Welch	
		Wells	
		Williams	
		Wiseman	
		Worton	
		Yakabuski—78.	

Clerk of the House: Mr. Speaker, the ayes are 78, the nays 35.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the resolution concurred in.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, just before we rise for the supper break, perhaps it would be fair to give some indication as to our programme for this evening. In the House we will do second readings of Bill 89, Bill 106, and Bill 108 in that order—

Mr. Peterson: Are you sure?

Hon. Mr. Welch: —and then go into the committee of the whole House—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Don't miss that, David.

Hon. Mr. Welch: —and do legislation in committee as time will permit. As for estimates tonight in committee; Agriculture and the Solicitor General.

An hon. member: The Liberals in easy caucus.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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 Conway, S. (Renfrew North L)
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 Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)
 Davison, M. (Hamilton Centre NDP)
 Deans, I. (Wentworth NDP)
 di Santo, O. (Downsview NDP)
 Drea, F. (Scarborough Centre PC)
 Eaton, R. G. (Middlesex PC)
 Ferrier, W. (Cochrane South NDP)
 Ferris, J. P. (London South L)
 Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
 Germa, M. C. (Sudbury NDP)
 Gigantes, E. (Carleton East NDP)
 Grossman, L. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
 Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
 Handleman, Hon. S. B.; Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Carleton PC)
 Henderson, Hon. L. C.; Minister without Portfolio (Lambton PC)
 Irvine, Hon. D. R.; Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Carleton-Grenville PC)
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 Parrott, Hon. H. C.; Minister of Colleges and Universities (Oxford PC)
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